MARVEL
VENOM
REMENDER • MOORE • FOWLER
CASELLI • MEDINA • MOLL

VENOM

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VENOM #1-2 & #4-5
PENCILER: **TONY MOORE** (#1-2, #4 & #5, PP. 1-6)
INKERS: **CRIMELAB STUDIOS** (#1-2, #4 & #5, PP. 1-6)
WITH **SANDU FLOREA** (#1, P. 6) & **KARL KESEL** (#1, PP. 12-13)
ARTIST: **TOM FOWLER** (#5, PP. 7-20)
COLORIST: **JOHN RAUCH**
COVER ART: **JOE QUESADA, DANNY MIKI & RICHARD ISANOVE** (#1);
TONY MOORE & JOHN RAUCH (#2);
AND **MIKE MCKONE & MORRY HOLLOWELL** (#4-5)

VENOM #3 & #6-8
ARTIST: **TOM FOWLER**
COLORIST: **JOHN RAUCH**
COVER ART: **MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO** (#3)
AND **TONY MOORE & JOHN RAUCH** (#6-8)

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COLORIST: **STEFANO CASELLI**
COVER ART: **JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER**

VENOM #10-12
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INKER: **NELSON DECASTRO**
COLORISTS: **MARTE GRACIA** WITH **JOHN RAUCH** (#12)
COVER ART: **TONY MOORE** WITH **DAVE STEWART** (#3),
MORRY HOLLOWELL (#11) & **DEAN WHITE** (#11)

VENOM/DEADPOOL: WHAT IF?
PENCILER: **SHAWN MOLL**
INKERS: **MARK IRWIN, JOHN LIVESAY & WALDEN WONG** WITH **SCOTT HANNA**
COLORIST: **CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**
COVER ART: **SKOTTIE YOUNG**

LETTERER: **VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA** WITH **CLAYTON COWLES** *(VENOM/DEADPOOL: WHAT IF?)*
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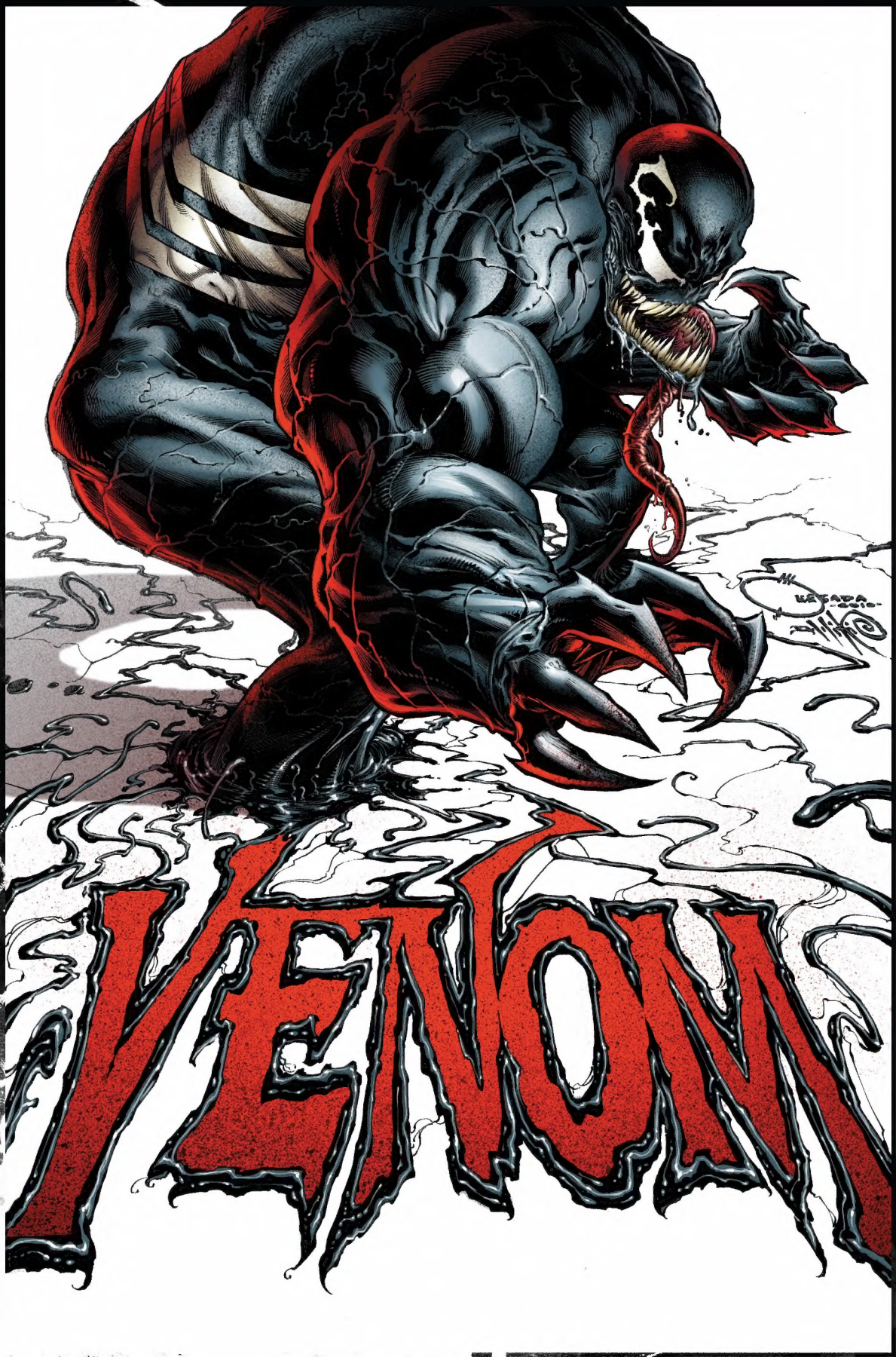

VENOM

CLASSIFIED

PROJECT REBIRTH 2.0

Name: Eugene "Flash" Thompson

Rank: Corporal U.S. Army

SSN: 987 -08-1962

Notes: High school bully turned war hero, Flash Thompson has always been brave. As a teenager he even impersonated Spider-Man to try and save the hero's reputation. He lost his legs in the Middle East while saving his commanding officer. He said his heroism was "what Spider-Man would have done."

CLASSIFIED

Name: Venom

Organism: Symbiote

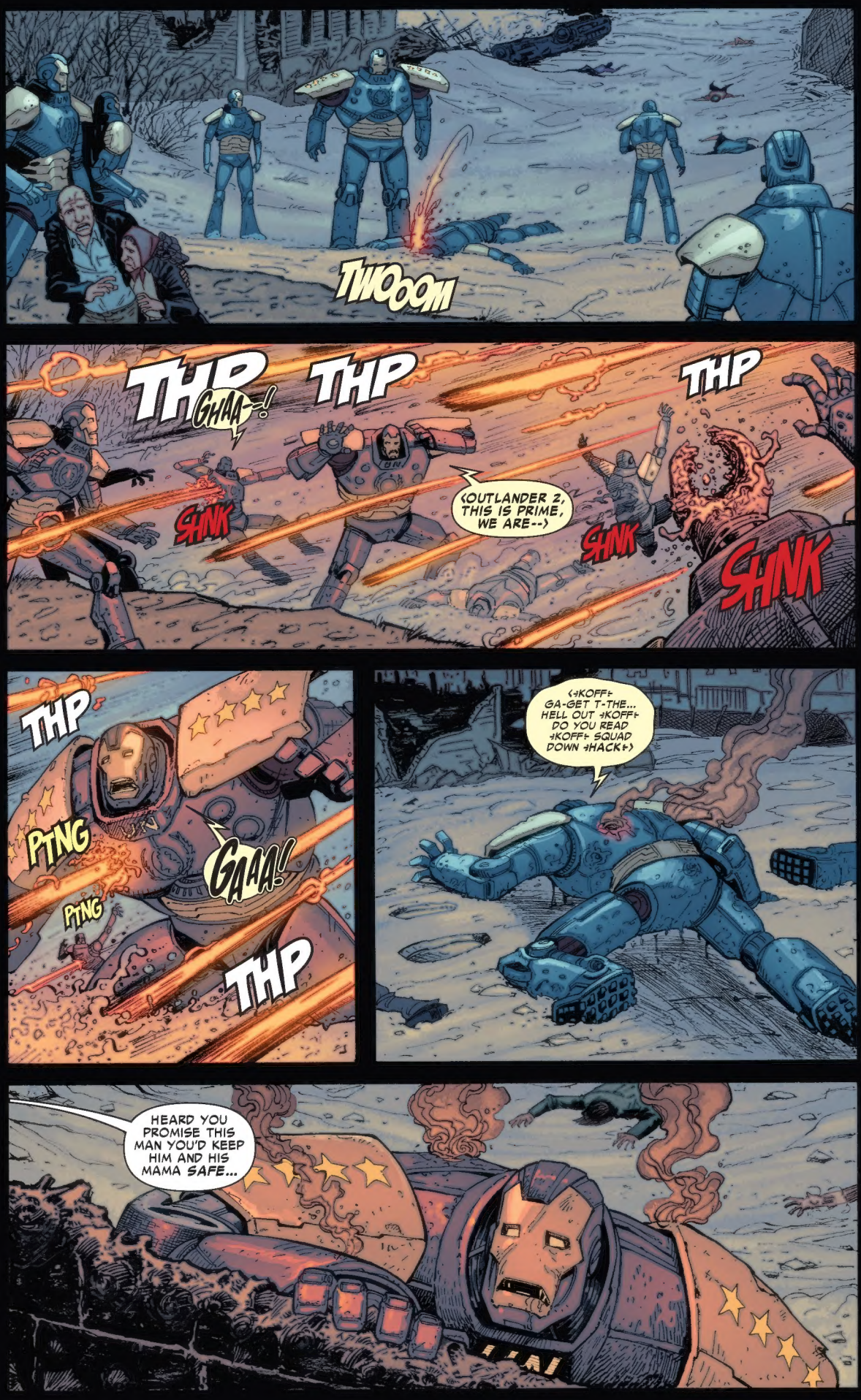
Origin: Extraterrestrial

Known Hosts: Spider-Man, Eddie Brock, Mac Gargan and others

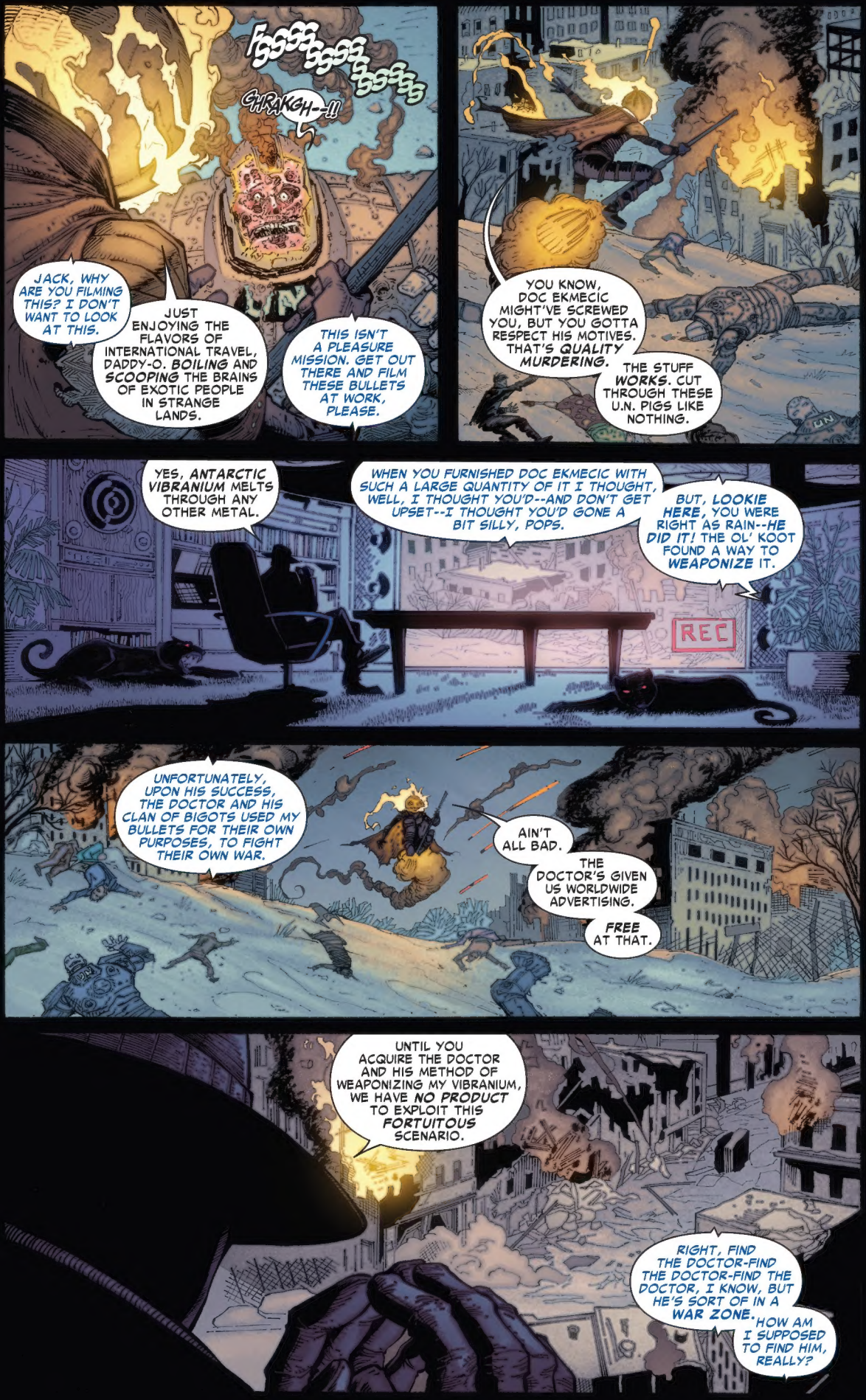
Notes: The Venom Symbiote is a dangerous alien parasite that bonds with a human host, giving them extraordinary abilities including spider-like powers and some shape-shifting abilities. It is known to cause madness in its hosts, as well as a taste for blood.

Nrosvekistan, Eastern Europe.
‹COME, MAMA! PLEASE! WE MUST HURRY!›
‹GO, JUKA! I AM TIRED...›
‹I CANNOT CONTINUE...›
SKLOSH
‹THESE MONSTERS TOOK MY SANJA! I WILL NOT LOSE YOU, TOO!›
‹DO NOT LET THEM BREAK YOUR SPIRIT-- I BEG YOU!›
‹COME! PLEASE, HURRY!›
‹JUKA, YOU STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INEVITABLE, MY SON...LEAVE ME...›
‹LEAVE ME TO DIE...›
‹NOT ON MY WATCH, MA'AM.›

‹W-WHO ARE YOU?›
‹TOM GORMIN, ELITE U.N. PEACEKEEPER.›
‹YOU'RE SAFE NOW. WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE MEN WHO DID THIS.›
UN
‹NO, YOU WILL NOT! NOTHING CAN STOP THEM--YOU MUST FLEE OR YOU WILL DIE HERE!›
‹MY TRANSLATOR MUST BE BROKEN. SIR, WE'RE MEGA-CLASS MECH-TROOPERS POWERED BY STARK TECH AND TRAINED IN SUPERHUMAN COMBAT.›
‹WE WILL PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. I PROMISE.›
‹LISTEN UP, MECH-TROOPERS--BEHIND ME, WE'VE GOT A BAND OF GENOCIDAL NATIONALISTS KNOWN AS THE BRIGHT PARTICIPATING IN ETHNIC CLEANSING.›
‹THIS IS THE EXACT CLASS OF DIRTBAG YOU DREAMED OF FIGHTING WHEN YOU WERE CALLED FROM YOUR WARM WINTER BEDS.›
‹LIEUTENANT MARCELLINO WILL FILL YOU IN ON PARTICULARS.›
‹THANK YOU, SIR.›
‹REPORTS COMING IN SAY THESE CREEPS ARE THE REGULAR VARIETY OF COCKROACH, NO SUPER POWERS, NO MUTANTS.›
‹WHEREAS YOU ARE WEARING ARMOR DESIGNED TO KEEP YOU ALIVE AFTER DANCING THE MAMBA WITH A 50-MEGATON NUKE. THERE IS SOME JUSTICE IN THE WORLD, BOYS.›
‹PROCEED EXTREM--›
PFNGG
UN


TWOOOM
THP
GHAA-!
THP
THP
SHNK
〈OUTLANDER 2, THIS IS PRIME, WE ARE--〉
SHNK
SHNK
THP
PTNG
GAAA!
PTNG
THP
〈+KOFF+ GA-GET T-THE... HELL OUT +KOFF+ DO YOU READ +KOFF+ SQUAD DOWN +HACK+〉
HEARD YOU PROMISE THIS MAN YOU'D KEEP HIM AND HIS MAMA SAFE...

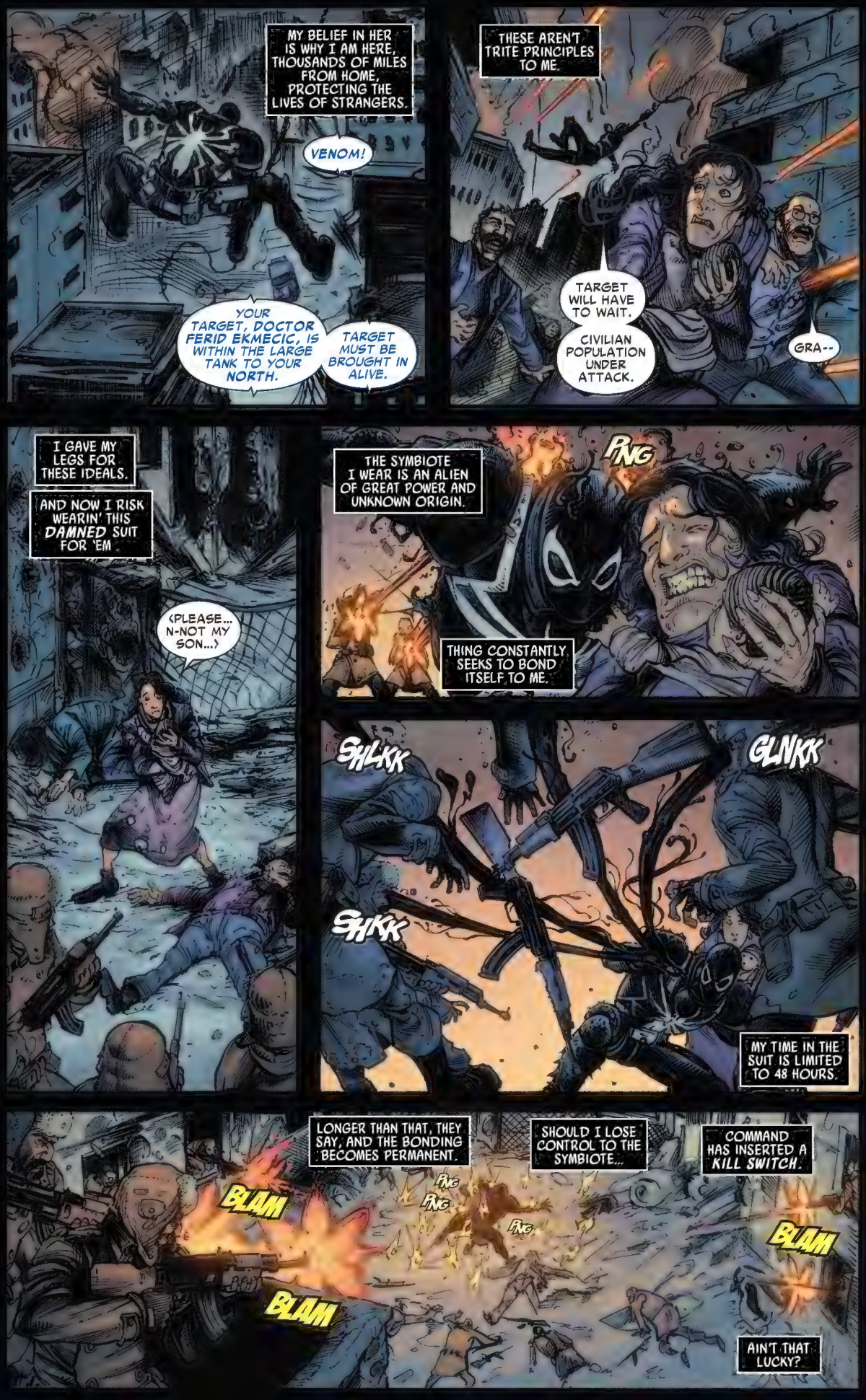
SHOULDN'T MAKE PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP.
REAL FAUX PAS.
I HATE TO GIVE TREATS TO BAD BOYS WHO HAVEN'T EARNED IT...
BUT THAT IS *SUCH* AN ADORABLE TIN-MAN COSTUME.
(P-PLEASE.. STOP...)

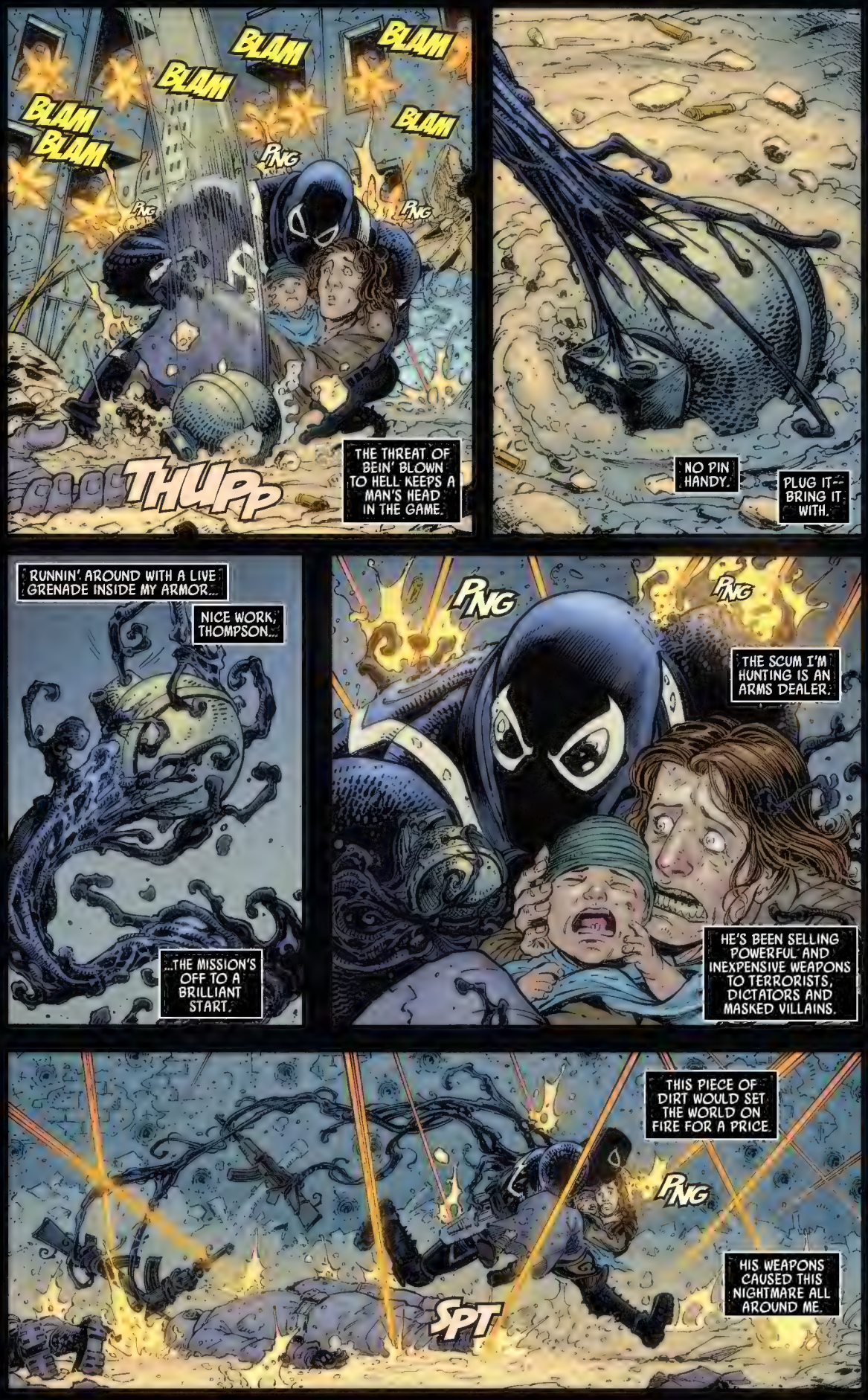

FSSSSSSSSSSSSS
CHRAKGH--!!
JACK, WHY ARE YOU FILMING THIS? I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT THIS.
JUST ENJOYING THE FLAVORS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, DADDY-O. BOILING AND SCOOPING THE BRAINS OF EXOTIC PEOPLE IN STRANGE LANDS.
THIS ISN'T A PLEASURE MISSION. GET OUT THERE AND FILM THESE BULLETS AT WORK, PLEASE.
YOU KNOW, DOC EKMECIC MIGHT'VE SCREWED YOU, BUT YOU GOTTA RESPECT HIS MOTIVES. THAT'S QUALITY MURDERING.
THE STUFF WORKS. CUT THROUGH THESE U.N. PIGS LIKE NOTHING.
UN
YES, ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM MELTS THROUGH ANY OTHER METAL.
WHEN YOU FURNISHED DOC EKMECIC WITH SUCH A LARGE QUANTITY OF IT I THOUGHT, WELL, I THOUGHT YOU'D--AND DON'T GET UPSET--I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE A BIT SILLY, POPS.
BUT, LOOKIE HERE, YOU WERE RIGHT AS RAIN--HE DID IT! THE OL' KOOT FOUND A WAY TO WEAPONIZE IT.
REC
UNFORTUNATELY, UPON HIS SUCCESS, THE DOCTOR AND HIS CLAN OF BIGOTS USED MY BULLETS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES, TO FIGHT THEIR OWN WAR.
AIN'T ALL BAD.
THE DOCTOR'S GIVEN US WORLDWIDE ADVERTISING.
FREE AT THAT.
UNTIL YOU ACQUIRE THE DOCTOR AND HIS METHOD OF WEAPONIZING MY VIBRANIUM, WE HAVE NO PRODUCT TO EXPLOIT THIS FORTUITOUS SCENARIO.
RIGHT, FIND THE DOCTOR-FIND THE DOCTOR-FIND THE DOCTOR, I KNOW, BUT HE'S SORT OF IN A WAR ZONE.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM, REALLY?

MAYBE HE'S ROLLING AROUND IN SOME GIANT MAD SCIENTIST VEHICLE WITH BRAINS MOUNTED IN A JAR, A NEON SIGN OVERHEAD, AND A SPOTLIGHT TRAINED ON HIM TO HELP ME...
I BELIEVE THAT IS YOUR NEON SIGN. FERID EKMECIC WILL BE INSIDE.
CLOWN'S ROLLING AROUND IN A GIANT TANK MADE OF VIBRANIUM, WILDLY INCONSPICUOUS.
SCOOP UP THE OLD DUCK AN' BE BACK HOME IN TIME TO KILL A HOOKER.
HOLD ON, THERE'S A HELICOPTER BRINGING SOME NEW KIDS TO THE PLAYGROUND.
TAKE YOUR PLEASURE, BOY, BUT DO NOT FORGET WHAT IT IS FOR.
SOCIETY IS UNNATURAL AND ONLY MAINTAINABLE THROUGH TYRANNICAL FORCE.
WE ARM THE WEAK SO THEY MIGHT RISE UP AND FURTHER THE AGENDA OF CHAOS.
WHY DO WE DESIRE CHAOS?
A CHAOTIC WORLD NEEDS MORE WEAPONS, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE BUSINESS WE ARE IN.
ISN'T IT WONDERFULLY CONVENIENT HOW OUR ETHICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE MATCH OUR FINANCIAL PLANS SO PERFECTLY?

GOD BLESS CAPITALISM.
THEY SAY MY COUNTRY'S BEST DAYS ARE BEHIND HER.
THAT WE'VE LOST OUR WAY.

THEY SAY WE'VE BECOME ENGORGED.
DEPENDENT.
GAA--
AN IMPERIALISTIC NATION INTENT ONLY ON MAKING ITSELF RICHER.
WHAA--!!
THEY FIXATE ON THE EXCEPTIONS.
THWIP
MY NAME IS EUGENE "FLASH" THOMPSON, CORPORAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.
I SURE AS HELL BELIEVE IN MY COUNTRY.
SKWUDD


MY BELIEF IN HER IS WHY I AM HERE, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HOME, PROTECTING THE LIVES OF STRANGERS.
VENOM!
YOUR TARGET, DOCTOR FERID EKMECIC, IS WITHIN THE LARGE TANK TO YOUR NORTH.
TARGET MUST BE BROUGHT IN ALIVE.
THESE AREN'T TRITE PRINCIPLES TO ME.
TARGET WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
CIVILIAN POPULATION UNDER ATTACK.
GRA--
I GAVE MY LEGS FOR THESE IDEALS.
AND NOW I RISK WEARIN' THIS DAMNED SUIT FOR 'EM
(PLEASE... N-NOT MY SON...)
THE SYMBIOTE I WEAR IS AN ALIEN OF GREAT POWER AND UNKNOWN ORIGIN.
PNG
THING CONSTANTLY SEEKS TO BOND ITSELF TO ME.
SHLKK
GLNKK
SHKK
MY TIME IN THE SUIT IS LIMITED TO 48 HOURS.
LONGER THAN THAT, THEY SAY, AND THE BONDING BECOMES PERMANENT.
SHOULD I LOSE CONTROL TO THE SYMBIOTE...
COMMAND HAS INSERTED A KILL SWITCH.
BLAM
BLAM
PNG
PNG
PNG
BLAM
AIN'T THAT LUCKY?


BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
PING
PING
PING
THUPP
THE THREAT OF BEIN' BLOWN TO HELL KEEPS A MAN'S HEAD IN THE GAME.
NO PIN HANDY.
PLUG IT-- BRING IT WITH.
RUNNIN' AROUND WITH A LIVE GRENADE INSIDE MY ARMOR...
NICE WORK, THOMPSON...
...THE MISSION'S OFF TO A BRILLIANT START.
PING
PING
THE SCUM I'M HUNTING IS AN ARMS DEALER.
HE'S BEEN SELLING POWERFUL AND INEXPENSIVE WEAPONS TO TERRORISTS, DICTATORS AND MASKED VILLAINS.
THIS PIECE OF DIRT WOULD SET THE WORLD ON FIRE FOR A PRICE.
PING
HIS WEAPONS CAUSED THIS NIGHTMARE ALL AROUND ME.
SPT

IF I CAN'T STOP THIS MAN, WAR WILL SPREAD.
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
BRAKKA BRAKKA
BLAM
SPT SPT
MORE INNOCENTS WILL SUFFER.
SO I'M HERE.
GLADOOOOOM
IN THIS DARK PLACE.
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
FAR FROM HOME.
MESA
MESA

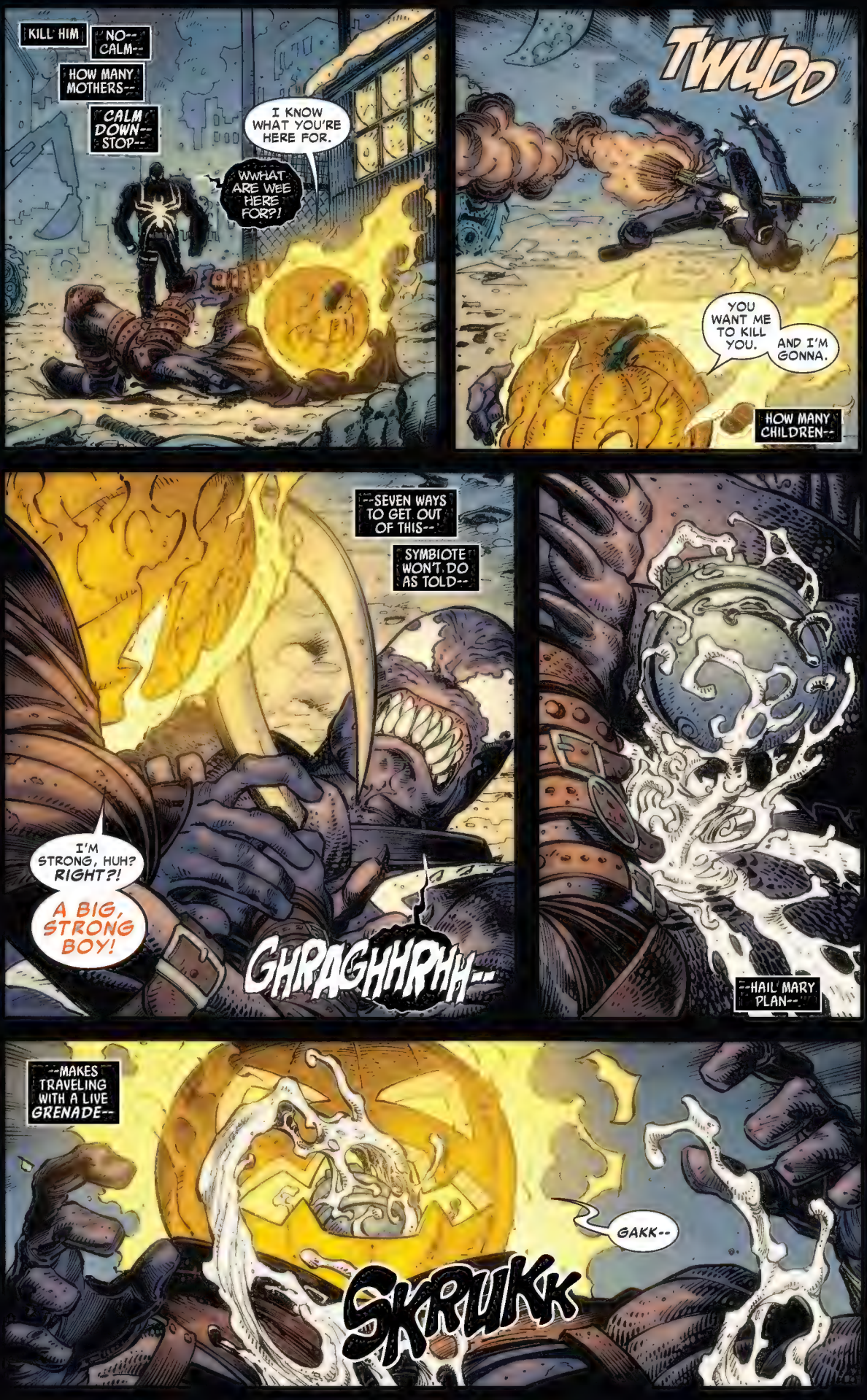
KKRASH
TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
THP
THP
THP
THP
WHAT THE HELL AM I LOOKING AT?! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
NO IDEA, SIR. WE'LL GET SOME MEN ON-- GHA!!
ERIK! RESPOND! WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
WRREENNCHHHH
HE CAUGHT A DOSE OF VENOM, DOCTOR EKMECIC.
I'M EMBARRASSED AS SOON AS IT COMES OUT OF MY MOUTH.
RELEASE ME! YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS HERE-- THIS IS MY NATION!!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE WE NEED YOU ALIVE.
NOW THAT IS ONE SPECTACULAR COSTUME.
WHAT--?
GHRAA--
FIRST YOU GET A TRICK--

--THEN THE TREAT!
-HRNK-
I'D HAVE IMAGINED, BEING A GENOCIDAL MANIAC, YOU'D BE LEFT OUT OF ALL MANNER OF SOIREES--BUT LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE THE BELLE OF THE BALL TONIGHT, SWEET SISTER PUREBLOOD.
GAA--!
BEING SOMETHING OF A MANIAC MYSELF, WITH THE NOM DE GUERRE JACK O' LANTERN, AND MY LEGENDARY FONDNESS FOR HOLLOWING OUT FOLKS' BRAINS, WELL, EVERYTHING ABOUT ME TENDS TO BE OFF-PUTTING TO THE BOURGEOIS.
W-WHO SENT YOU?
YOU KNOW WHO SENT ME.
DAMMIT! TWISTED UP--
--CAN'T LOSE HIM--
--THINK--
GOT IT!
THERE'S ALWAYS AN OPENING--

--FOR FLASH'S FAMOUS HAIL MARY PASS.
BLADOOOOOM
YHRAA--
OPERATIVE VENOM--I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN.
YOUR ANGER IS OUT OF CONTROL, YOU'RE REDLINING.
YEAH, YEAH.
IF YOU DO NOT CALM DOWN THE SYMBIOTE WILL TAKE OVER.
I READ YOU.
CALM BLUE OCEAN, CALM BLUE OCEAN.
(PLEASE, YOU MUST TAKE MY ADRIAN TO SAFETY!)
AGENT VENOM, THE CIVILIANS HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMPANY. HELP THEM FIND COVER, U.N. TROOPS EN ROUTE.
NEGATIVE!
ZONE IS TOO HOT. GOING TO GET THEM OUT.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THIS DECISION?
IF THAT DOCTOR'S RECIPE FOR WEAPONIZED ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM IS DELIVERED TO OUR TARGET--
GLOBAL DESTABILIZATION-- I WAS AT THE DEBRIEFING.
THIS WOMAN AND HER SON WON'T LAST FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT ME-- SO I'M GETTING THEM OUT.

BE DAMNED CLEAR, IF YOU'RE TAKING CHARGE OF EVACUATING THOSE PEOPLE--
--THEIR LIVES ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
AT FIRST COCK-CROW THE GHOSTS MUST GO--
SINKK
BACK TO THEIR QUIET GRAVES BELOW!
DISTRACTED--
IDIOT--
--ALMOST KILLED HER--
THUDD
WOMAN AND HER CHILD-- TERRIFIED--
SONOFABITCH DOESN'T CARE--
GO! GET AWAY FROM HERE!
MAY JACK-O-LANTERNS BURNING BRIGHT OF SOFT AND GOLDEN HUE--
--PIERCE THROUGH THE FUTURE'S VEIL TO SHOW--
YERAGHH!!
WHAT FATE NOW HOLDS FOR YOU!!
AGENT VENOM, CALM DOWN.
YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL!

NOOO--
THWIP
THWIP
OOF--
THWAKK
WWE ARE FINALLY IN CONTROL!


KILL HIM
NO-- CALM--
HOW MANY MOTHERS--
CALM DOWN-- STOP--
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR.
WWHAT ARE WEE HERE FOR?!
TWUDD
YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU.
AND I'M GONNA.
HOW MANY CHILDREN--
--SEVEN WAYS TO GET OUT OF THIS--
SYMBIOTE WON'T DO AS TOLD--
I'M STRONG, HUH? RIGHT?!
A BIG, STRONG BOY!
GHRAGHHRHH--
--HAIL MARY PLAN--
--MAKES TRAVELING WITH A LIVE GRENADE--
GAKK--
SKRUKK

--SEEM PRETTY SMART IN HINDSIGHT.
TWOOOM
WHATEVER HE'S JUICED UP ON...
...LOSING HIS JAW DOWNGRADES HIS MOOD.
GAKK-- RHAKK -KOFF- -KOFF- GAA-- -HACK-
<NO! PLEASE!>
ZWOOOOSH
FREAK IS PERSISTENT.
WHOOSH
FACE HALF BLOWN OFF--
HIS MIND'S STILL ON HIS MISSION.

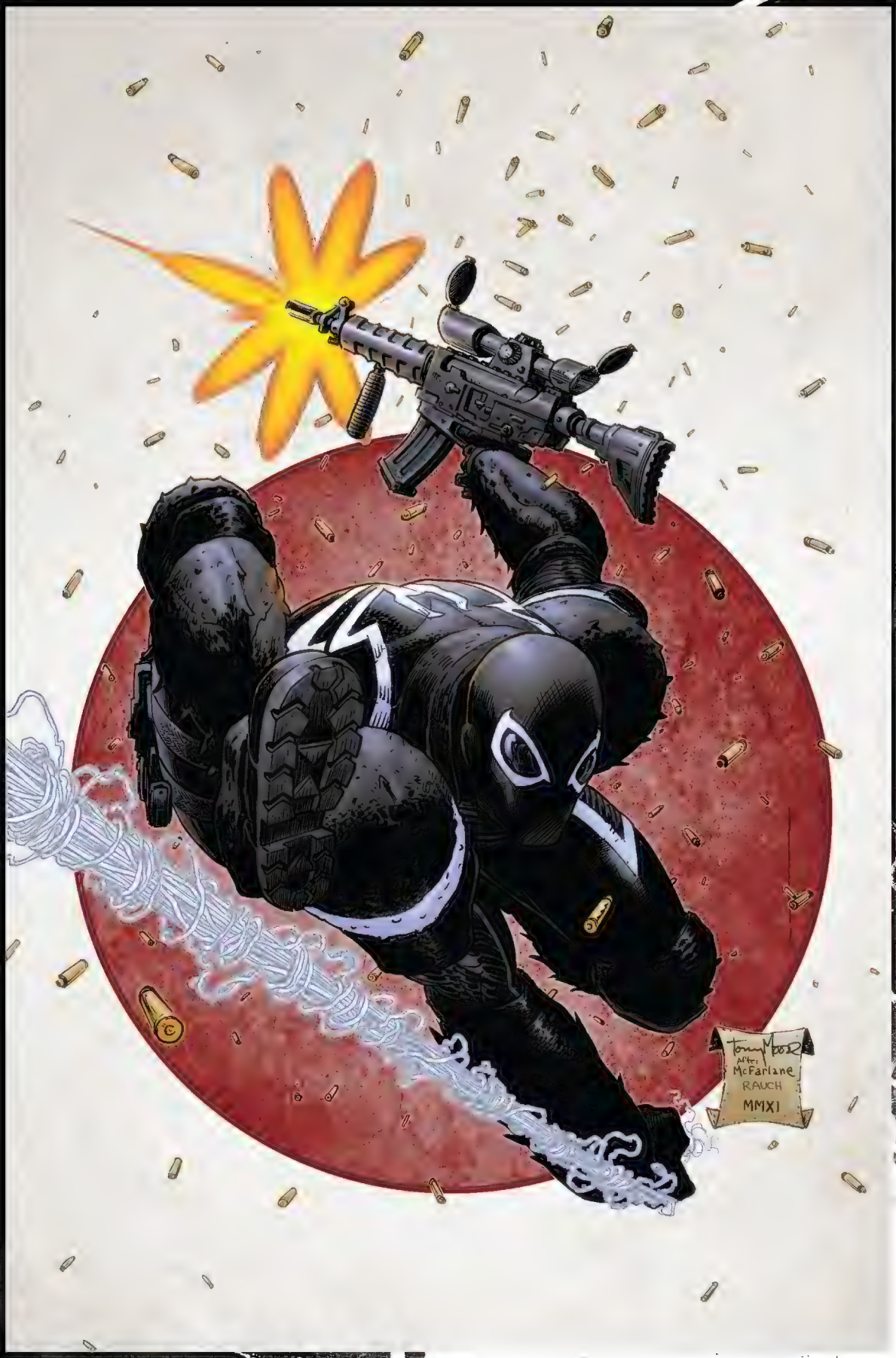
SO'S MINE
THWIP
KRTTCHH
TARGET IS DOWN. AGENT VENOM, REGAIN YOUR COMPOSURE AND PREPARE FOR EVACUATION.
MISSION IS A SCRUB.
WE...WE-- I...I CAN THINK OF AT LEAST...TWO PEOPLE LIKELY TO DISAGREE WITH YOU.
POINT TAKEN, SOLDIER. BUT NOT EVERYONE'S GOING TO SEE THIS CUP AS HALF FULL.
PLEASING THE SUPERIORS ISN'T MY OBJECTIVE, KATHERINE.
WELL, GOOD THING THAT, AGENT VENOM...

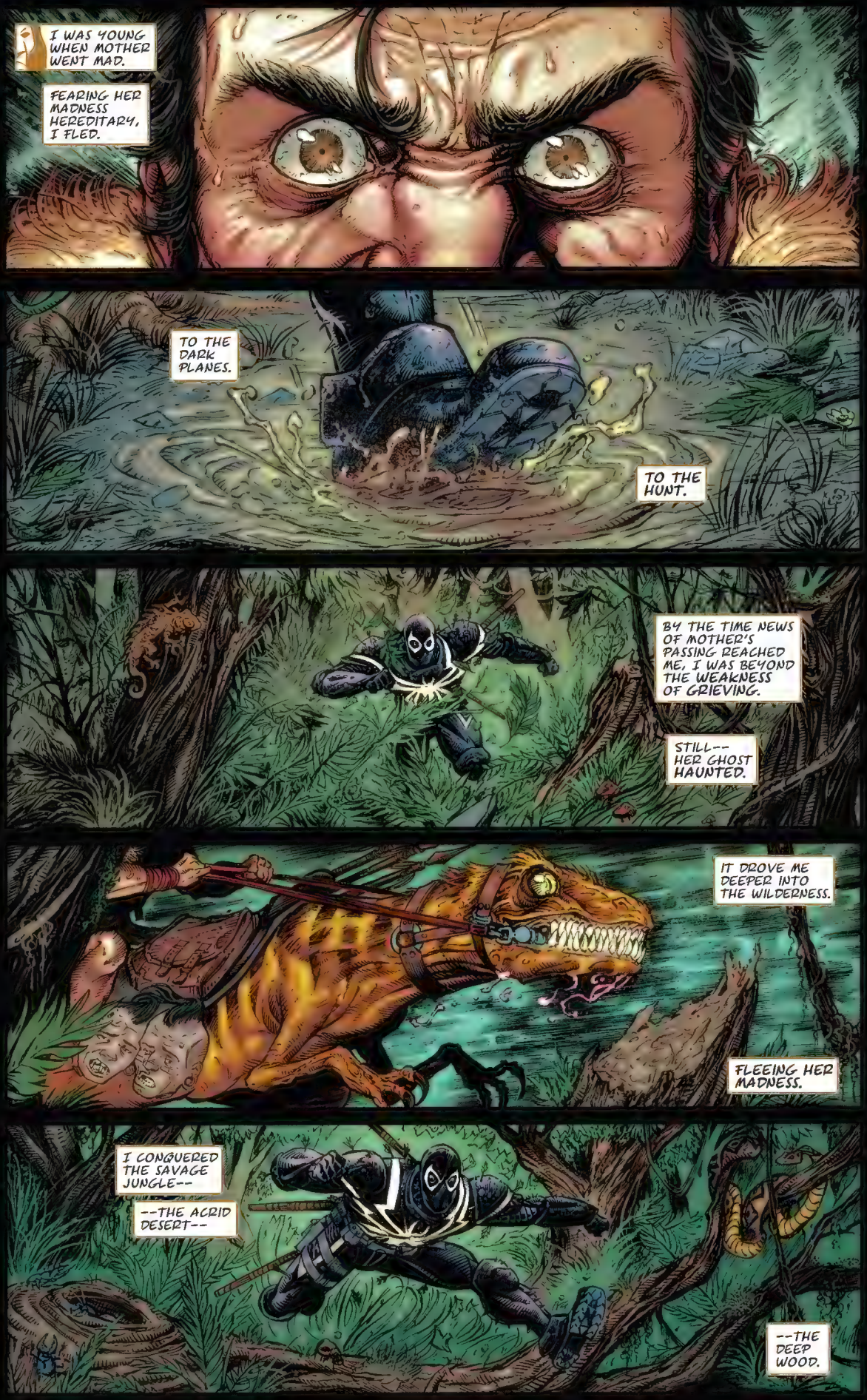
"...BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T."
GET THE SUIT OFF OF THE BOY!
NEED TO HAVE WORDS WITH THAT IDIOT AND I DON'T WANT HIM LOSING CONTROL AND KILLING ME.
SIR, I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THE LAST TIME YOU ASSURED ME OF SOMETHING, IT WAS IN REGARDS TO MY REQUEST YOU BRING ME THAT TERRORIST WEAPONS-MAKER WHOSE SPINE YOU SNAPPED.
ADDING UP YOUR ASSURANCES LEADS ME TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION, CORPORAL THOMPSON.
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SHHLLUUPPPPP--
WOOF WHOOF
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO KILL THE MAN, CORPORAL? DID I NOT STRESS HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS THAT YOU--
DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE ENTIRE SERMON, SIR? I HAD TWO OPTIONS, KILL HIM OR LET THE BAD GUYS HAVE HIM. I STAND BY MY CALL.
I'D APPRECIATE SOME CONSIDERATION IN REGARDS TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF MY SITUATION.
KATHERINE. AARON. WOULD YOU PLEASE EXCUSE THE TWO OF US?
IS THIS WHERE YOU SCREAM AT ME, CALL ME "MAGGOT"?

I'M NOT THE SCREAMING TYPE, SON.
I'M NOT YOUR FOOTBALL COACH. I'M NOT HERE TO MOTIVATE YOU TO WIN SOME GAME.
BUT MAYBE I SHOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SEVERITY OF THINGS.
I HAD TO KILL THE LAST SOLDIER OCCUPIED THAT SUIT.
MAN LOST CONTROL, JUST A BIT LONGER THAN YOU DID OUT THERE TODAY.
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO FRIGHTEN ME?
IT OUGHTA DO THAT. ONE HOUR AGO I SAT WITH MY FINGER ON THAT VERY SAME BUTTON, CORPORAL.
YOU WERE INCHES AWAY FROM THE END OF YOUR LIFE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T KEEP YOUR TEMPER UNDER CONTROL.
I NEED YOU TO KILL THAT HIGH SCHOOL BOY JOCK BRAGGART WHO CRAWLED UP YOUR TAIL END.
HE IS COMPROMISING MY MISSION.
THEN I NEED CORPORAL EUGENE THOMPSON, THE WAR HERO, TO BEGIN A REGIMEN OF TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION.
THIS MISSION IS VOLATILE; I NEED MY PRIMARY TO HAVE HIS TEMPERAMENT UNDER CONTROL.
GO HOME, SON. GET SOME R AND R. GET SOME DISTANCE FROM THAT BEAST YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND.
BUT I NEED FOR US TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR--
YOU EVER LET THAT ALPHA-JOCK BRUTE ANGER SULLY MY "OPERATION VENOM" AGAIN, I WILL CUT YOU OFF THE TEAM FASTER THAN A MOHEL.

Brooklyn.
HEY, GLORY, IS BETTY AROUND...?
BEEN CALLING FOR THE PAST HOUR, BETTY TURNED OFF HER PHONE...
PROBABLY A GOOD REASON FOR THAT, THOMPSON. ANYTHING COME TO MIND?
NOT REALLY.
YOU'RE SIX HOURS LATE, THOMPSON. SHE'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
OH, MAN! THE V.A. BENEFIT!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I-I, UM... WELL, FILLING OUT DONATOR THANK-YOU LETTERS FOR THE V.A. OFFICE...
MY EX-HUSBAND GAVE ME PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE DETECTING LIES, SNIFFING OUT A SECRET LIFE--I WILL NEVER PUT UP WITH THAT AGAIN.
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING. THE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES, GONE FOR DAYS AT A TIME, IT ALL ADDS UP TO ONE THING--
YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN.
HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT, AFTER EVERYTHING--?
SERIOUSLY, FLASH?
HOW COULD I NOT THINK IT?
SLAM

MY NAME IS EUGENE "FLASH" THOMPSON.
I'M AN ALCOHOLIC.
OLD MAN WAS A DRINKER, TOO.
GAVE ME A CONCUSSION WITH A MICKEY'S BIG MOUTH ON MY ELEVENTH BIRTHDAY.
HE USED TO SAY, "WHERE GOD WANTS YOU, HE'LL MAKE A WAY."
WHEELCHAIR RAMP TO A PINT.
"WHERE GOD WANTS YOU, HE'LL MAKE A WAY."
Alcoholics Anonymous MEETING TONIGHT!
I BET THE OL' BASTARD'D THINK THOSE STAIRS ARE PRETTY DAMNED FUNNY.
"Bad temper is its own scourge.
"Few things are more bitter than to feel bitter.
"A man's venom poisons himself more than his victim." – Charles Buxton


Tony Moore
After McFarlane
RAUCH
MMXI


I WAS YOUNG WHEN MOTHER WENT MAD.
FEARING HER MADNESS HEREDITARY, I FLED.
TO THE DARK PLANES.
TO THE HUNT.
BY THE TIME NEWS OF MOTHER'S PASSING REACHED ME, I WAS BEYOND THE WEAKNESS OF GRIEVING.
STILL-- HER GHOST HAUNTED.
IT DROVE ME DEEPER INTO THE WILDERNESS.
FLEEING HER MADNESS.
I CONQUERED THE SAVAGE JUNGLE--
--THE ACRID DESERT--
--THE DEEP WOOD.

I COULD NOT ESCAPE IT--
MOTHER'S MADNESS FOUND ME.
WITH IT, VISIONS.
THE VISIONS LEAD ME TO MY TRUE ADVERSARY--
AND I HUMBLED IT.
AND I BURIED IT.
WITH MY FAMILY'S HONOR RECLAIMED, I FOLLOWED MOTHER--
--A GUN IN MY MOUTH.
BUT MY ADVERSARY WOULD NOT HAVE ME AT PEACE.
EVERY SPIRIT HAS A DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE ESSENCE IT MUST HUNT--
--AND BE HUNTED BY.
GHA--
ONLY DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ONE'S ANTITHESIS CAN BRING LASTING PEACE--
SHNKK

ONLY THE SPIDER'S VENOM CAN BRING REST TO...
...kRAVEN THE HUNTER.
THE DRUMS-- DEAFENING!
NOT DRUMS-- MY HEART--
KRNKK
POISONED-- AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS--

KRTCHH
--SPREADING HIS VENOM.
WOOSHH
RUN.
HOW MANY DAYS HERE?
PANICKED ANXIETY-- POISONED--
RUN.
THWIP
--KEEP IT TOGETHER--
RUN.
REMEMBER BETTY.
SHE DOESN'T DESERVE THIS.
SCHHOPP

DAMNED DRUMS--
--SO LOUD--
KQURKK!!
NO--NOT DRUMS--
POISON.
SKRRAWKK!
SHUKK
NOT A MAN--WILD BEAST--
RUN.
SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
THUDD
RHRAHH!
SQUNK
THE DAMNED DRUMS--
--GIVE ANYTHING--
THE FETID HEART TAKES PHYSICAL FORM--
--MAKE THEM STOP--
THAT KRAVEN MIGHT MAKE IT BLEED!
SHRUNKK

GRWWAAAKK--!
JUST A MAN--
RUN.
THWOKK
--FOCUS--
SKRAK
DO NOT LEAVE BETTY WITH THIS.
YOU HAVE FAILED ME, SPIDER.
HOPELESS--
NO.
ONE HOPE--
BLAM
RUN.
DON'T LEAVE BETTY TO BURY ANOTHER LIAR.

WEBBING FROM THIS HEIGHT--
RISK OF DISLOCATING SHOULDER-- OR WORSE--
THWIPP
TEARING AN ARM OFF.
THE SYMBIOTE HOLDS.
DOESN'T EVEN HURT.
BUT THAT COMES.
THWUMPP
OOF
STAY AWAKE...
...CAN'T...
CAN'T... LEAVE...
BLESS YOU, SPIDER.
YOU MAY DELIVER ME YET.
CAN'T...
...LEAVE...

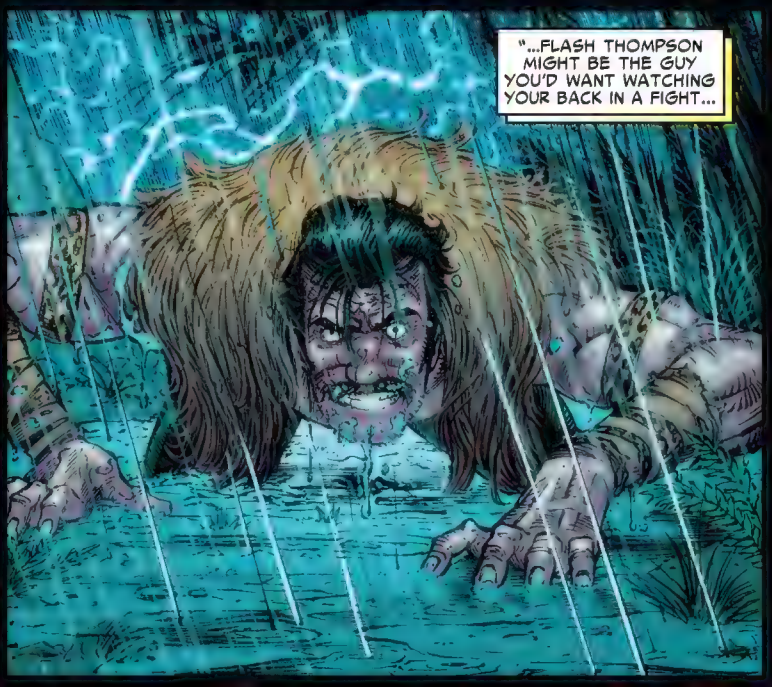
...CAN'T LEAVE BETTY WITH THIS.
YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BURN SOUP THAT BADLY, PETE.
IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY IMPRESSIVE IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
A REAL HIGH-WATER MARK FOR YOU.
HOT-WATER MARK.
+SNIFF+
WHOA, HEY! I'M SORRY, I KNOW I SCREWED UP DINNER BUT IT WASN'T LIKE I POISONED YOU...
+SOB+ NO... IT'S NOTHING... WE CAN TALK LATER... I KNOW YOU HAVE THINGS TO GO DO.
C'MON, WHAT'S GOING ON, BETTY? YOU AND FLASH BREAK UP AGAIN?
"ARE YOU KIDDING? BREAKING UP WOULD BE TOO EASY.
"FLASH PREFERS TO JUST IGNORE ME, GONE FOR DAYS AT A TIME WITH NO WORD."
THOSE FUNDRAISING TOURS FOR THE V.A.--
NO. NO MORE EXCUSES.
FLASH LACKS THE BASIC DECENCY TO FACE HIS PROBLEMS HEAD ON...
"...HE'D PREFER TO LET THINGS DIE SLOW AND PAINFULLY."

HE'S OSCILLATED BETWEEN *HERO* AND *JERK* ENOUGH TIMES--I'M DONE BEING SURPRISED WHEN THE PENDULUM SWINGS.
THERE'S AN EXPLANATION. HE'S SUCH A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW...
NO, HE'S THE *SAME* PERSON...

"...ALWAYS RUNNING FROM SOMETHING."

I DON'T ASK FOR MUCH, PETE. I DON'T.
I DON'T NEED SHINY EXPENSIVE THINGS, OR DOORS HELD OPEN, OR DOTING...
I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO AT THE END OF THE DAY.
AND IF IT *ISN'T* GOING TO BE HIM, I NEED TO GET ON WITH MY LIFE.

I WOULDN'T QUIT ON FLASH YET; HE ISN'T THE SAME PERSON WE GREW UP WITH.
GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO DO THE RIGHT THING--*HE'LL DO IT.*
I DON'T KNOW, PETE...


"...FLASH THOMPSON MIGHT BE THE GUY YOU'D WANT WATCHING YOUR BACK IN A FIGHT...

"...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FACING REAL LIFE...

"...HE'S THE LAST GUY ANYONE SHOULD RELY ON."
NO--!!
HOW THE HELL DID I GET HERE? WHERE--
SAVAGE LAND-- AIRDROPPED-- CALM DOWN.
KRAVEN HUNTING ME--FOR DAYS NOW--FELL-- PASSED OUT--
SYMBIOTE-- MUST'VE TAKEN CONTROL-- BROUGHT US IN HERE.
BONDED FOR TOO LONG--
NO GOOD.
DODGE SENT ME TO DESTROY ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM MINING FACILITY--
SIDETRACK WITH KRAVEN-- COSTING ME THE MISSION--
SLUPP
GHRKK--
COST ME A LOT MORE IF I DON'T GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

TWO DAYS WEARING THE SYMBIOTE--WAAAY PAST SAFE THRESHOLD.
KRAVEN'S STILL OUT THERE.
HAVE TO GET THIS THING OFF.
BE HERE SOON--
COMM IS SHATTERED. KATHERINE WON'T KNOW THE SITUATION.
AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T ACTIVATE FAIL-SAFE.
TRUSTS ME ENOUGH NOT TO BLOW ME UP...YET.
GET TO THE MINE--
STOP THE SHIPMENT--TIME STILL--
HE'LL BE HUNTING.
ONE BULLET LEFT.
IN CASE THE SYMBIOTE TAKES ME--IN CASE I HAVE TO--
NO.
WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
BETTY CAN'T BURY ANOTHER LIAR.
KRAVEN--NOT MY MISSION--NOT MY PROBLEM.
KEEP IT SIMPLE, SOLDIER.
BLOW THE MINE.
GET OUT ALIVE.
HOME TO BETTY.

LEAVING HIM OUT THERE.
THIS LUNATIC, HUNTING GOD-KNOWS-WHO NEXT.
A LAND MINE FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO TRIP.
NOT MY PROBLEM.
I HAVE THE POWER TO TAKE HIM DOWN.
MAKES HIM MY PROBLEM--
MY RESPONSIBILITY.
CAN'T TURN MY BACK ON THIS.
CAN'T RUN.
NOT HELPLESS. NOT PREY.
NOT FLASH THOMPSON, DISABLED VET--
YOU'RE VENOM.
YOU HAVE TO TAKE THIS LUNATIC DOWN--
--YOU HAVE TO KILL KRAVEN THE...

...HUNTER.
SPIDER.
I HAVE SHOWN MUCH LOVE FOR YOU.
HIS EYES--
VACANT--
MUCH DEVOTION!
KRAKK
GHA--!
GEEKED OUT ON VOODOO DUST--
GIVE ME WHAT I DESIRE!
ONE FINAL EMBRACE, MY DEAR SPIDER.
OOF--
LUNATIC WANTS AN EMBRACE.
I'LL EMBRACE HIM ALL RIGHT...

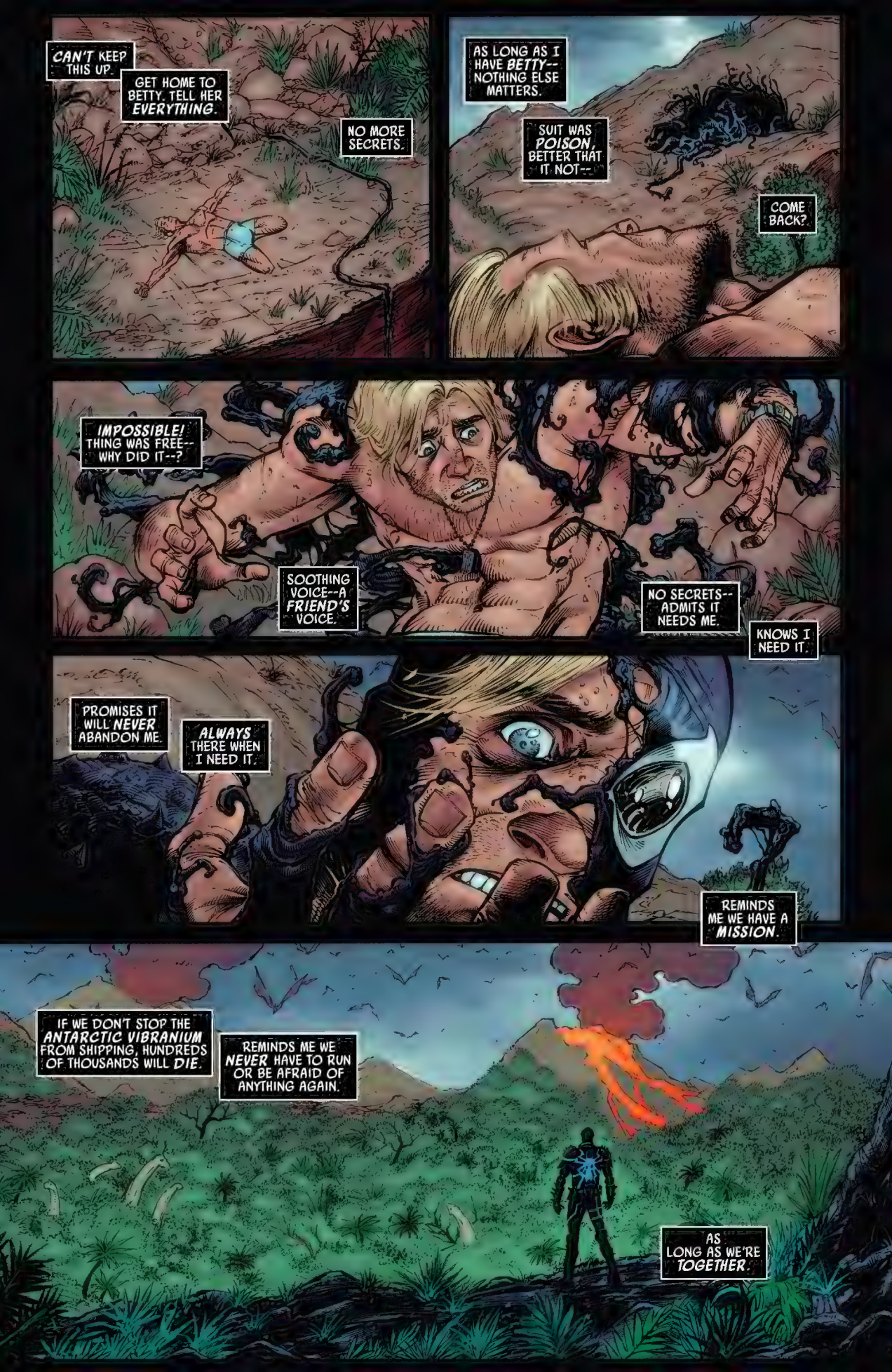
--JUST NOT IN A DOOM-CAVE FULL OF GIANT BAD-LUCK-BATS.
BATS USE SONAR TO SEE.
SONICS MAKE MY SYMBIOTE VERY UNHAPPY.
GO.
LAST PLACE YOU WANT THIS FIGHT.
GET THROUGH--GET OUT BEFORE HE FINDS YOU.
GET OUT BEFORE--
IT IS TIME.
THE HUNT IS OVER.
LET US DIE TOGET--
THWAP
SHUT UP THE CRAZY TALK.

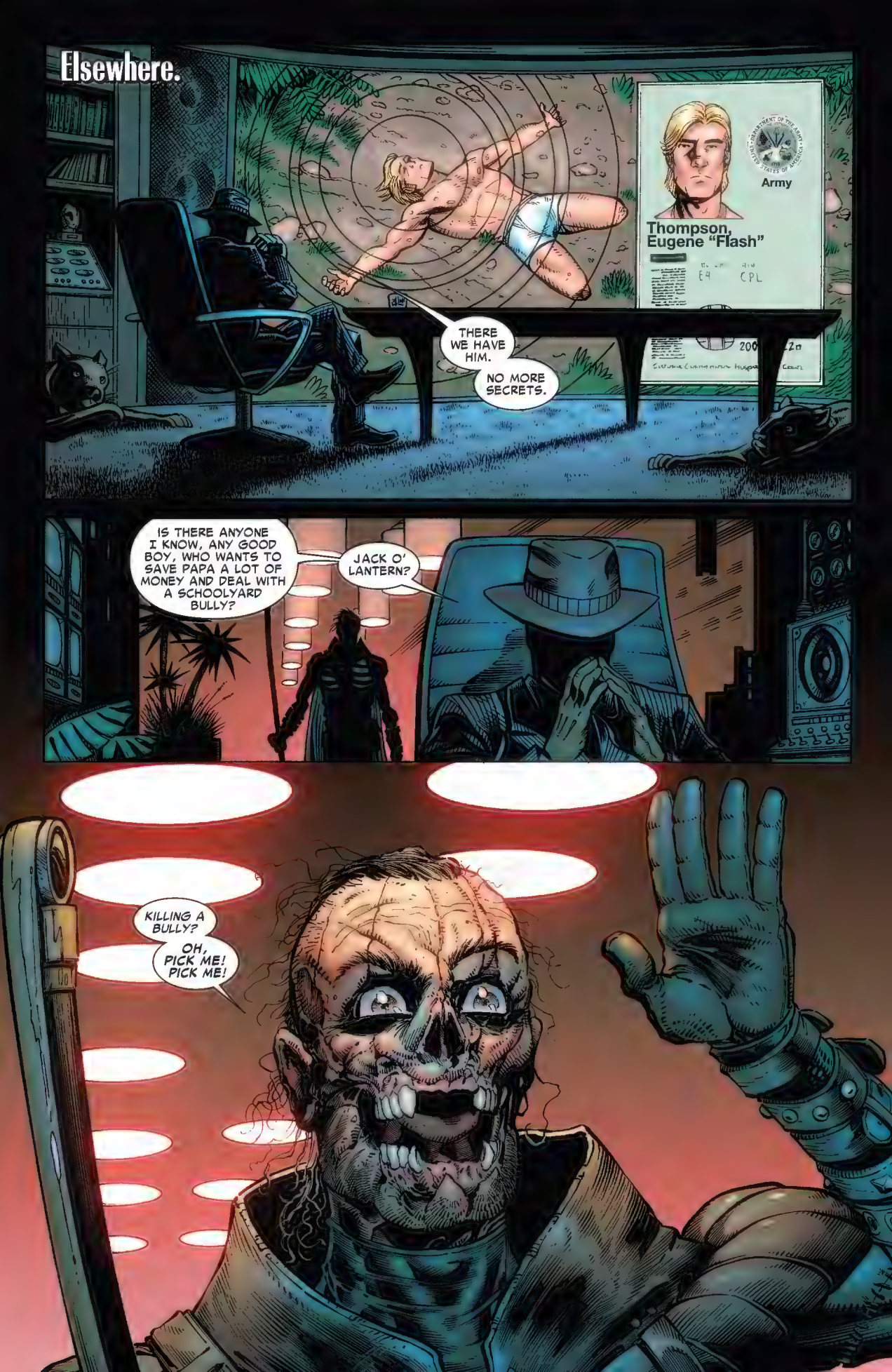
STAY CALM--
ANXIETY LEADS TO FEAR.
FEAR LEADS TO ANGER.
GET ANGRY--
--LOSE CONTROL--
--AND THE SYMBIOTE TAKES ME.
YES, THERE IT IS--I FEEL YOUR RAGE!
JOYOUSLY ENTER OUR FINAL EMBRACE, DEAR SPIDER--
TONIGHT WE DIE!!
FASTER THAN EYES TRACK--
A BLUR OF MOTION--
DON'T THINK--
--MOVE ON INSTINCT--
GAH!
PREDICT HIS MOVES.
THWIPP
THEN GIVE CRAZY WHAT HE WANTS--
SHLNKK
YHERGAGHH!!!
HE WAILS--
IT'S A GOOD SOUND.

THE BATS WAKING UP ISN'T.
SKREEEEEEE
YERAGHH!!
SKREEEEEEE
SHORT-SIGHTED--
--COSTS ME--
SKREEEEEEE
SYMBIOTE'S AGONY--
--REVERBERATING THROUGH MY SKULL--
YERARAGHAGHR!!
SO MUCH PAIN-- CAN'T BLAME IT FOR ABANDONING ME.
THE DEMON'S TRUE FORM.
THE SPIDER'S BLACK SPIRIT FLEES YOU.

TAKE YOU WITHOUT IT.
GIVE ME A KNIFE, EVEN THINGS UP--I'LL KILL YOU.
GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
NO. YOU HAVE FAILED ME. FAILED TO SAVE ME.
YOU ARE A FRAUD.
ONE BULLET LEFT--
KEEP CRAZY RANTING--GET THE GUN--
A "CRIPPLE" WHOLLY UNWORTHY TO KILL A KRAVINOFF.
WORD IS YOU NUTS DO A PRETTY GOOD JOB KILLING YOURSELVES.
FOR DISHONORING MY NAME YOU WILL BLEED TO DEATH, SLOWLY. YOU WILL--
GHAA--
THE BAD-LUCK-BATS FIGURE THEY OWE ME ONE.
PROBABLY THEY'RE LOOKING FOR DINNER.
SONOFA--

GET OUT OF THIS OR I'M GONNA FIND OUT.
ANOTHER FEW SECONDS I'LL BE TOO HIGH TO FALL--
--NOW OR NEVER--
--HAIL MARY SHOT INTO ITS BRAIN--
WORTHY OF A ZAPRUDER HOME VIDEO.
SKRAKK--
BLAM!
BUYS MY FREEDOM--
--AND A THIRTY-FOOT FALL.
GHA!
TWUDD
MAYBE HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL.
AS CRAP AS THAT WAS I TAKE COMFORT IN FACT--
IT'S GOING TO BE A WHOLE LOT WORSE FOR CRAZY KRAVEN BATFOODINOFF.


CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.
GET HOME TO BETTY. TELL HER EVERYTHING.
NO MORE SECRETS.
AS LONG AS I HAVE BETTY--NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
SUIT WAS POISON, BETTER THAT IT NOT--
COME BACK?
IMPOSSIBLE! THING WAS FREE--WHY DID IT--?
SOOTHING VOICE--A FRIEND'S VOICE.
NO SECRETS--ADMITS IT NEEDS ME.
KNOWS I NEED IT.
PROMISES IT WILL NEVER ABANDON ME.
ALWAYS THERE WHEN I NEED IT.
REMINDS ME WE HAVE A MISSION.
IF WE DON'T STOP THE ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM FROM SHIPPING, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WILL DIE.
REMINDS ME WE NEVER HAVE TO RUN OR BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING AGAIN.
AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER.

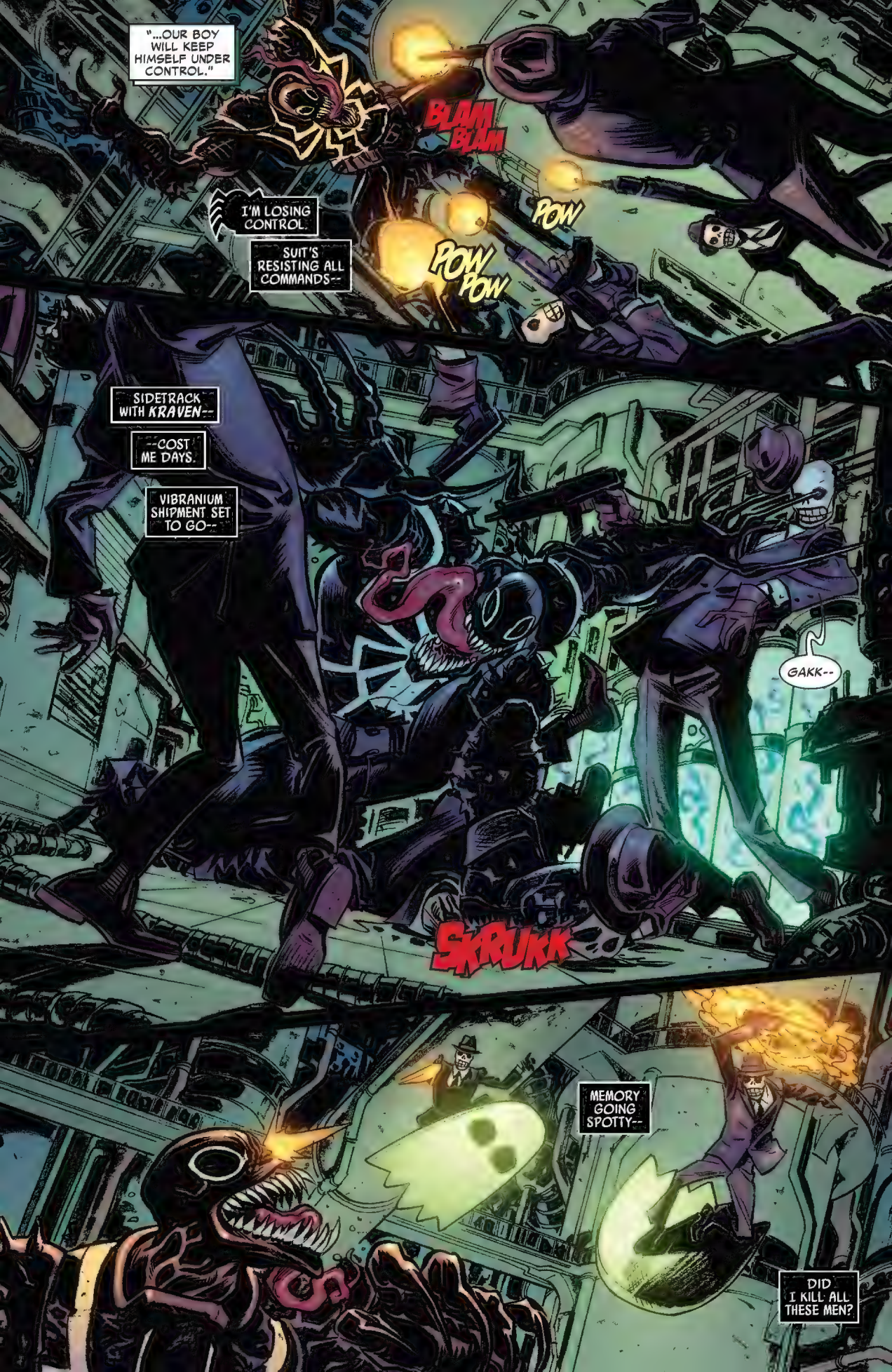

Elsewhere.
Army
Thompson, Eugene "Flash"
E4
CPL
THERE WE HAVE HIM.
NO MORE SECRETS.
IS THERE ANYONE I KNOW, ANY GOOD BOY, WHO WANTS TO SAVE PAPA A LOT OF MONEY AND DEAL WITH A SCHOOLYARD BULLY?
JACK O' LANTERN?
KILLING A BULLY?
OH, PICK ME! PICK ME!

MIKE DEODATO JR

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU, MISS BRANT?
W-WHO'S THERE?!
WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND...
DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT THEY SAY BEHIND YOUR BACK?
SKKKRTCHH
W-WHAT-- WHAT DO YOU WANT--?
WHEN YOUR "FRIENDS" THINK THEY CAN SPEAK WITH IMPUNITY...
THEY GIGGLE AND THEY WHISPER...
REVELING IN THE DECADENT QUESTION ON ALL THEIR MINDS...

HOW DOES BETTY LOVE THAT LEGLESS DRUNK?
AAIIEEEEE!
GENERAL DODGE, AGENT VENOM'S BEEN RADIO SILENT FOR THREE DAYS, SIR.
Project Rebirth

HE'S LOST IN THE SAVAGE LAND AND 24 HOURS PAST THE POINT OF PERMANENT INTERCONNECTION WITH THE SYMBIOTE.
I RECOMMEND WE EXERCISE OUR FAIL-SAFE AND DETONATE AGENT THOMPSON BY REMOTE CONTROL.
TWAK
KATHERINE, THE ODDS THAT HE COULD STILL HAVE CONTROL OF THE SUIT...
SOMETHING OF A LONG-SHOT?
TWAK
DO NOT DETONATE. WE NEED AGENT VENOM TO DESTROY THAT SHIPMENT OF ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM.
IF HE FAILS, WE'RE ALL IN FOR A BAD FEW YEARS.
HAVE FAITH...

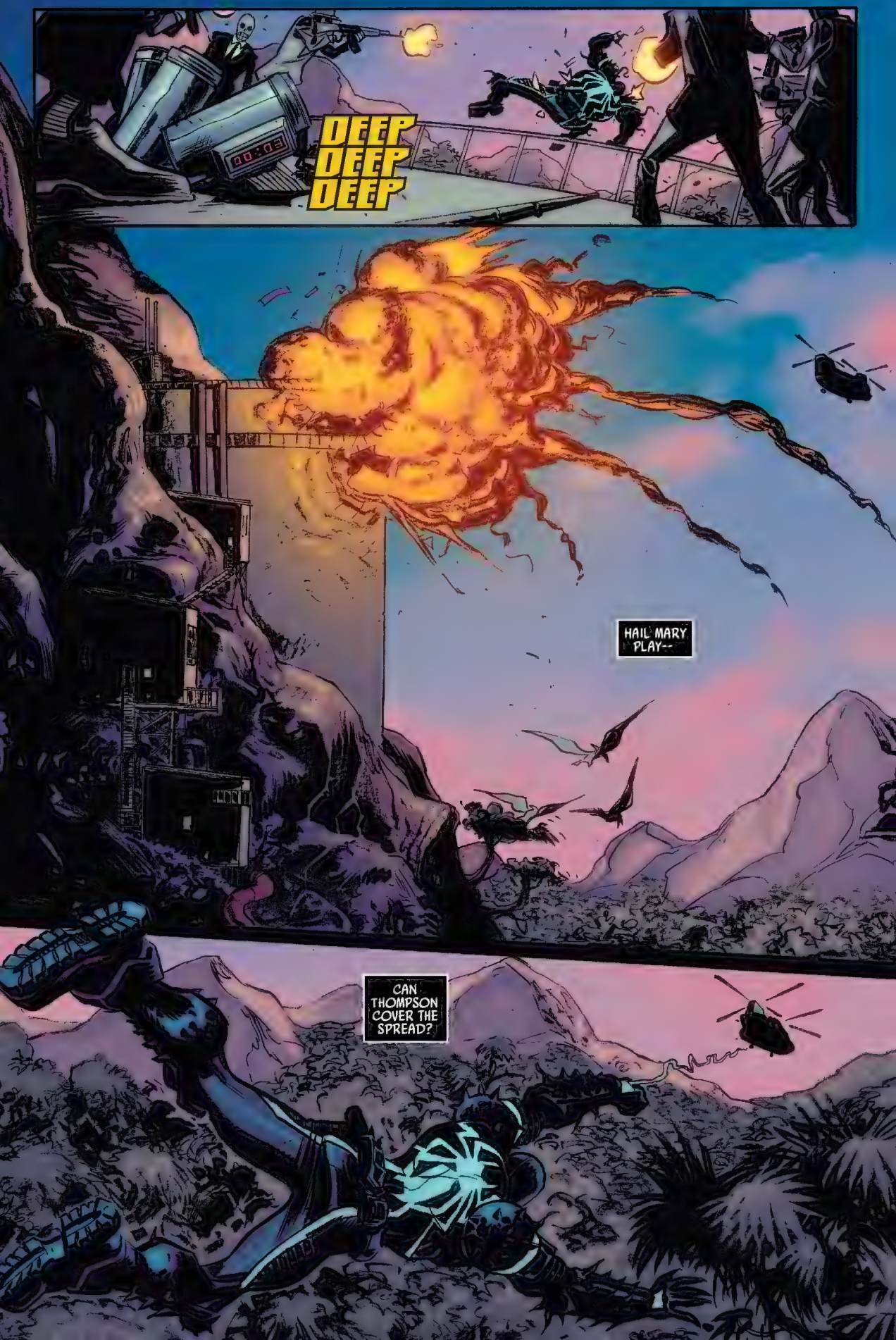

"...OUR BOY WILL KEEP HIMSELF UNDER CONTROL."
BLAM BLAM
I'M LOSING CONTROL.
SUIT'S RESISTING ALL COMMANDS--
POW
POW POW
SIDETRACK WITH KRAVEN--
--COST ME DAYS.
VIBRANIUM SHIPMENT SET TO GO--
GAKK--
SKRUKK
MEMORY GOING SPOTTY--
DID I KILL ALL THESE MEN?

NOT MEN--
--TERRORISTS--
GHRAA--
THEY DESERVE THIS.
SHRUKK
--DEALING IN UNSTOPPABLE BULLETS.
BOOOOM
MERCENARIES.
THEIR BUSINESS KILLS WOMEN AND CHILDREN--
--MOTHERS AND FATHERS.
WWEE WILL MMURDDERR TTHEM!
PERHAPS. OR YA MIGHT JUST DISCOVER--

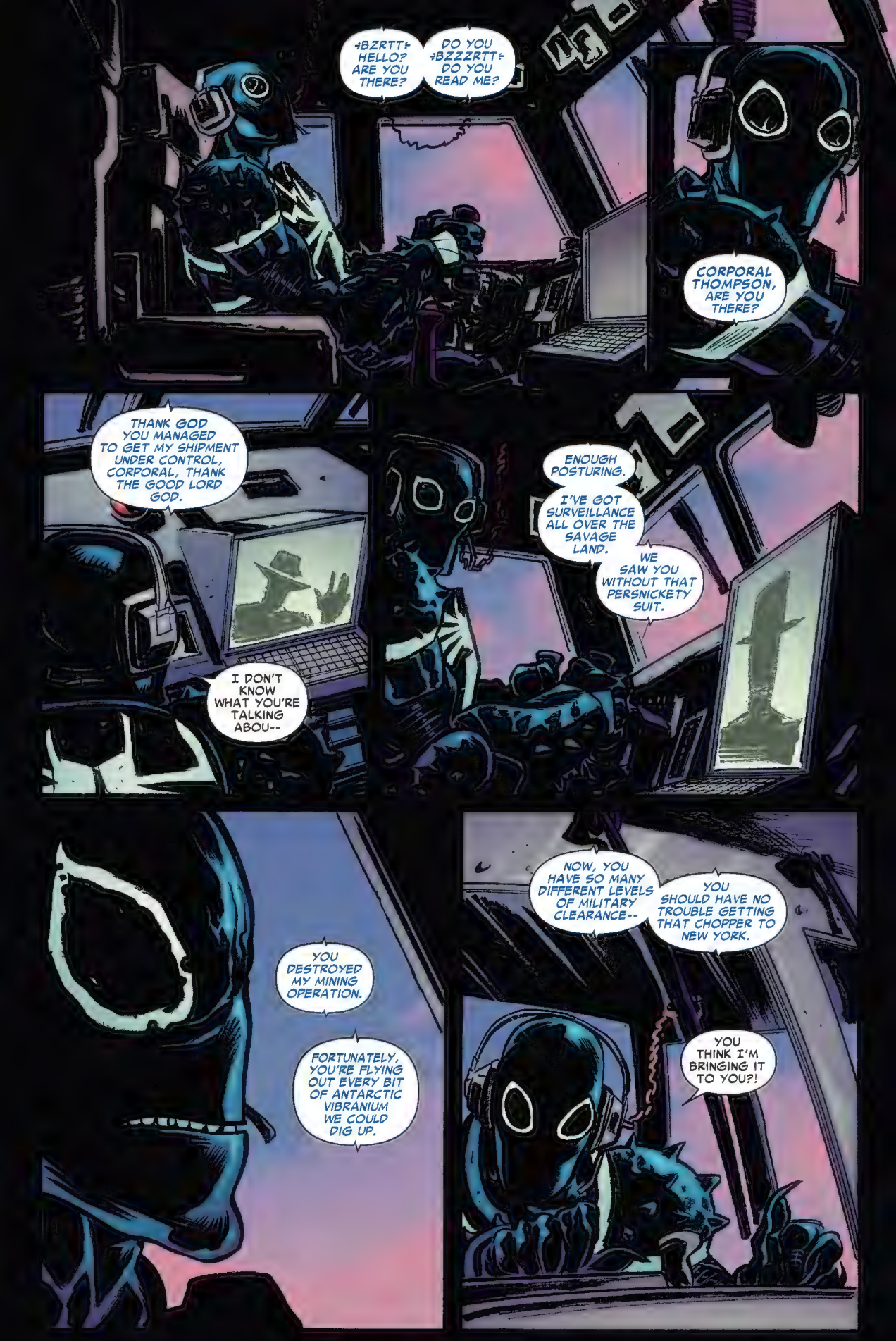
--THE HENCHMEN AIN'T NO CHUMPS!
YERAGH!
STUKK
SYMBIOTE'S PAIN TURNS TO RAGE--
--I'M POWERLESS--
--A SPECTATOR--
TAKE THE RIDE--
...
LET THE SYMBIOTE DO WHAT IT DOES--
KRASH
--THEY DESERVE IT.

THEY DESERVE US.
SONOFA--
GDOOOM
THE POWER-- EUPHORIC.
ENJOYING IT--
BAD SIGN.
LAST DOSE OF THE SEDATIVE--
--TAKES EVERY BIT OF WILL POWER I HAVE TO FORCE THE SYMBIOTE TO COMPLY.
AN INJECTION BUYS ME AN HOUR--
ENOUGH TIME.
FIND THE VIBRANIUM--
--SET THE C4--
--VACATE PREMISES.
AND IF YOU THINK THERE'S A CHANCE YOU MIGHT BOTCH THE MISSION--

--JUST THINK OF THE BODIES BACK IN NROSVEKISTAN.
GO! WE GOT INTRUDERS ON SITE!
GET THE DAMNED SHIPMENT OUTTA HERE BEFORE--
TWAMM
NOT SURE WHICH I APPRECIATE MORE--
SNG
BLAM BLAM
PNG
TNG
BLAM
POW
--BEING BULLETPROOF--
BLAM
--OR RUNNING AGAIN.
HOLD THIS.
POW
POW


DEEP
DEEP
DEEP
HAIL MARY PLAY--
CAN THOMPSON COVER THE SPREAD?

CROWD GOES WILD.
GLPP
SOMEWHERE MICHAEL BAY FILLS HIS PANTS.
KRA-DOOOOOM
EUPHORIA--
BAD SIGN.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
GHA


-BZRTT- HELLO? ARE YOU THERE?
DO YOU -BZZZRTT- DO YOU READ ME?
CORPORAL THOMPSON, ARE YOU THERE?
THANK GOD YOU MANAGED TO GET MY SHIPMENT UNDER CONTROL, CORPORAL, THANK THE GOOD LORD GOD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOU--
ENOUGH POSTURING.
I'VE GOT SURVEILLANCE ALL OVER THE SAVAGE LAND.
WE SAW YOU WITHOUT THAT PERSNICKETY SUIT.
YOU DESTROYED MY MINING OPERATION.
FORTUNATELY, YOU'RE FLYING OUT EVERY BIT OF ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM WE COULD DIG UP.
NOW, YOU HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF MILITARY CLEARANCE--
YOU SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING THAT CHOPPER TO NEW YORK.
YOU THINK I'M BRINGING IT TO YOU?!

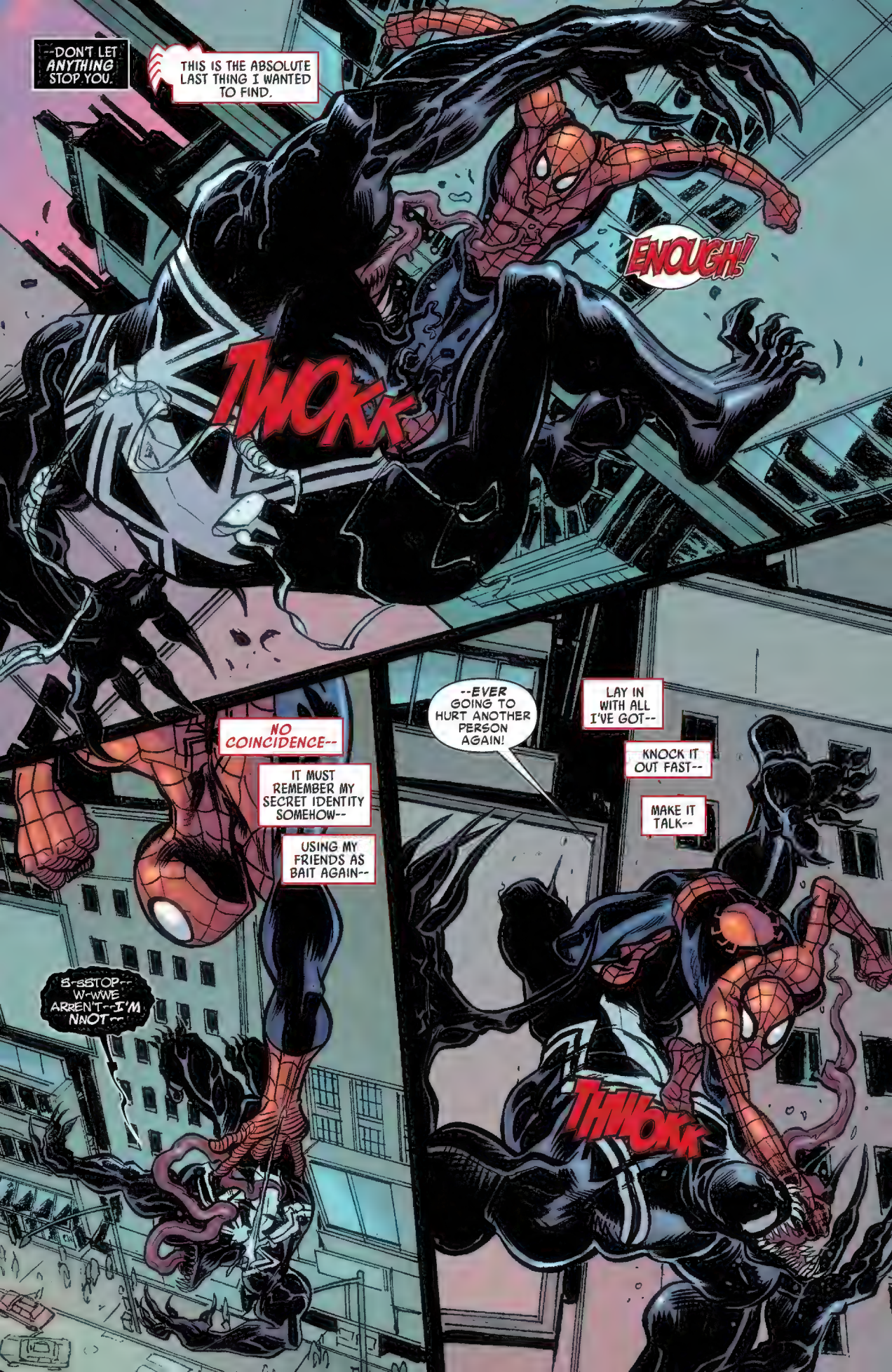
I DO.
SEEMS FAIRLY REASONABLE GIVEN MY ASSOCIATE JACK O' LANTERN HAS YOUR LADY FRIEND STRAPPED TO A GIANT BOMB.
OSTENTATIOUS, BUT THE VISUAL SELLS THE SITUATION, RIGHT?
IF YOU HURT HER...
YES, YES. GET THAT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM.
KEEP QUIET--PILOT THAT HELICOPTER TO NEW YORK--JACK'LL RELEASE BETTY.
I'M A VERY FAIR MAN--GIVING YOU SOME NICE OPTIONS HERE, AREN'T I, CORPORAL?
WIN-WIN. SEE, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I WAS GOING TO GET MY VIBRANIUM TO NEW YORK TO BE WEAPONIZED.
AND THEN YOU ARRIVED, SENT FROM THE HEAVENS, WITH YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE.
I TRUST YOU'LL GET ME MY SHIPMENT, CORPORAL...

"...JUST IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO BETTY IF YOU DON'T."
BETTY?
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR--
DOOR OPEN...
GLORY? IT'S PETER.
LISTEN-- I'M AT YOUR PLACE, IT'S BEEN RANSACKED. HAVE YOU SEEN BETTY?
MY GOD-- NO. SHE WAS TAKING THE DAY OFF, SAID SHE WAS GOING TO SLEEP IN...
CALL THE POLICE. SEND THEM TO YOUR APARTMENT.
PETER, WHAT'S GOING ON?
"TROUBLE."

WHEN THEY RAN MY CREDENTIALS, IT HAD TO SET OFF A RED LIGHT BACK AT BASE.
LET COMMAND KNOW I'M ALIVE--
ALIVE AND IN CONTROL OF THE SYMBIOTE.
Bushwick, New York.
BUT I'M NOT IN CONTROL--
THE SUIT IS.
EVERYONE, GIVE VENOM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.
IT'S JUST PLAYING NICE.
HECK OF A JOB, TODAY. REALLY GOT US OUT OF A PICKLE.
CRIME-MASTER. PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
IT'S LETTING ME FEEL LIKE I'M STILL IN CONTROL...
...FOR NOW.
BBETTTY... YYOU PPROOMISED UBS...
I DID. I PROMISED YOU... OR US, PLURAL, SINGULAR-- HOWEVER YOU LIKE.

SHE'S IN A WAREHOUSE BY THE RIVER, AT THE END OF VALENTINE LANE. YOU HAVE...FIVE MINUTES.
IF YOU CALL YOUR SUPERIORS--SHE'S DEAD.
WHY LET US GO?
WELL, YOU'RE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S MOST IMPORTANT OPERATIVE.
AND I KNOW YOUR IDENTITY.
GIVEN HOW YOU "ROLL" IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, I BET WEARING THAT CREATURE IS A THRILL.
I BET YOU ALTER YOUR REPORT TO OMIT THE FACT THAT I KNOW YOUR IDENTITY.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KEEP THE SUIT.
GO. SAVE MISS BRANT. GO ABOUT YOUR LIVES.
YOU KEEP PLAYING SUPER-SPY.
ONE DAY, I'LL BE BACK, FOR A FAVOR.
TAKES EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO STOP THE SUIT FROM EATING HIS FACE.
FOCUS ON BETTY.

NO FIGHT LEFT--
--SUIT TAKES THE WHEEL--
STILL--IT'S LISTENING--
STILL WILLING TO HELP ME SAVE HER.
KILLING THE MEN WHO DID THIS WILL WAIT.
GET ME TO HER.
YOU HEAR ME?
SAVE HER--
--PLEASE--
WHATEVER IT TAKES--


--DON'T LET ANYTHING STOP YOU.
THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE LAST THING I WANTED TO FIND.
ENOUGH!
THWOKK
NO COINCIDENCE--
IT MUST REMEMBER MY SECRET IDENTITY SOMEHOW--
USING MY FRIENDS AS BAIT AGAIN--
S-SSTOP-- W-WWE ARREN'T--I'M NNOT--
--EVER GOING TO HURT ANOTHER PERSON AGAIN!
LAY IN WITH ALL I'VE GOT--
KNOCK IT OUT FAST--
MAKE IT TALK--
THWOKK

FIND BETTY.
I BROUGHT THIS SYMBIOTE TO EARTH--
MY RESPONSIBILITY--
ONCE AND FOR ALL--
BEFORE HE--
--BURY IT.
THWIP
RUN!!
AS IN GO! SOME OTHER PLACE--RIGHT NOW!
HHURRT.SS SSSOMEBONNE?

SKROOM
STOP!
NO TIME FOR THIS--
YOU HEAR ME?!
PLEASE!
GO NOW--
--OR BETTY IS GOING TO DIE!
GRK-NNGHH
KRASHH
NO RESPONSE--
BLINDED BY RAGE--
--ISN'T LISTENING--
--FOCUSED ON ONE THING--

KKILLL SPPIDDER-MMAN!
DEEP DEEP DEEP
SIR?
BOY'S LOST CONTROL.
NO CHOICE THEN.
TEN

McKone
11

JACK O' LANTERN INVITED ME TO JOIN CRIME MASTER'S HENCHMEN WITH ONE PROMISE--*LITTLE* WORK, *LOTS* OF MONEY.
EARN MYSELF A *BIG SHARE* OF SOME *AUSTRALIAN VIBRANIUM.*
RARE STUFF. MAKES BULLETS THAT MELT THROUGH OTHER METAL.
BOSS HAD A GEEZER SCIENTIST FIGURE OUT HOW TO WEAPONIZE IT.
GEEZER GOT KILLED, BUT BOSS GOT THE RECIPE.
WHAT THE--
JACK?
WE'RE ON SCHEDULE.
BOSS'S *SMART.* CUTS EVERYONE IN ON THE TAKE.
NONE OF THAT FIXED RATE *GARBAGE* I HAD WHEN I WAS RUNNING IN *DOCTOR OCTOPUS'S* GANG.
BOSS REWARDS INITIATIVE.
FOUND THIS ON THE COPTER, BOSS.
LIKE FINDING THIS THING HERE...
BOSS'LL SHOW GRATITUDE.
CRIME MASTER--
HE'S A *GOOD* GUY.
TAKES CARE HIS PEOP--*HEY!*
WAA-!

CORPORAL THOMPSON LEFT A BOMB.
BAD BOY.
SOMEONE PLEASE CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING, BY PUSHING THAT RED BUTTON, I WOULD NOW BE WATCHING THIS MONSTER BLOW-THE-HELL-UP.
SIR, THE DETONATION WENT OFF ACROSS TOWN IN A BUSHWICK WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, SIR.
LAST ISSUE-- S.W.
NO WAY CORPORAL THOMPSON WOULD HAVE KNOWN HOW TO LOCATE THE BOMB...
OUR SYMBIOTE FRIEND HAS CLEARLY LEARNED FROM OUR PREVIOUS MISSIONS AND EJECTED THE EXPLOSIVE CONTRAPTION.
THAT BEAST IS OUTMANEUVERING US.
I WAS PROMISED NOTHING LIKE THAT WAS POSSIBLE.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, SIR...THE SYMBIOTE COULDN'T HAVE DETECTED THE BOMB'S LOCATION... UNLESS...!-IT MUST HAVE...
MUST HAVE WHAT, MACKENZIE?
"IT READ MY MIND, SIR."
SPIDER-MAAAAN WE ARRE SOOOOO HAPPYY. YOOU ARE AALWAYYSSS ONN OURRR MINDDSSS.
MONSTER'S TAKEN BETTY.
IT MUST REMEMBER... SOMEHOW...
REMEMBERS WHO I AM...
KOFF *HAKK*

MY NAME IS FLASH THOMPSON.
I'M ABOUT TO KILL MY LIFELONG HERO.
WWWE HAATE55 YOU! ALWWAYS IN OOUR WAYY.
ALWAAYS YOUU CCAUSSE PPAIIN TO UBS.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT PAIN IS--
--BUT I'M GONNA SHOW YOU.
NO CONTROL.
BEST-CASE SCENARIO--
WOOOOM
--SPIDER-MAN KILLS US BEFORE WE HURT SOMEONE.
GGGGRRRRENNNNCHHHHH

--LET HIM STOP US--
GET CONTROL LONG ENOUGH--
TELL HIM-- BETTY'S STRAPPED TO A BOMB--
L-LISTTEN... TOO MME... LISSTEN...
HOLD STILL--
GRADOOOOM
GIVE ME SOMETHING WORTH LISTENING TO!
MY RESPONSIBILITY.
LET THIS MONSTER GO TOO LONG.
NOW BETTY--
NO. SHE'S ALIVE-- HAS TO BE-
WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE?!
GET IT UNDER CONTROL--
--TELL HIM--
...BRRAANNT... BBOMBB...
W-WHAT? BOMB?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?!
SKLAM!

CAN'T GET THROUGH-- RUN.
SYMBIOTE HATES THE IDEA.
WHA--?
B-BEETTTYY...
ARE YOU TAUNTING ME--?!
TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!!
DO NOT FIGHT--STAY CALM--
MINUTES TO GET TO BETTY--
YOU HEAR ME, YOU SLIMY BLACK MONSTER?
GO NOW OR SHE'S DEAD!
THWIPP
ISN'T HITTING BACK--
NOW HE'S RUNNING...?
NO ESCAPE--
FRESH!
COSTINGTON'S
NOT THIS TIME.
RAGE.
LIKE A DRUG.
PURE.
YOU'RE GOING TO TALK IF I HAVE TO TEAR YOUR ARMS OFF!
NO MORE FIGHTING IT--
--NO MORE PAIN--
COSTINGTON'S

--NO MORE SPIDER-MAN.

SSHEE DDEAD-- JJUUSSSIT LIKKKEE YYOOU!!

TWWOKK

OOF-=(

KRATOOOOM

COLD/ FLU PAIN RELIEF VITAMINS SLEEP AIDS DIET AIDS HUMIDIFIERS DIABETIC FITNESS

PRESCRIPTIONS

HHERRE WWE AAREE!! GGET UUPP--DDIE ONN YYOUR FEET!

HE'S ATTACKED US.

IMPRISONED US.

BETRAYED US.

KILL HIM.

NNEVERR AGGAINN DDO YYOU HUURT UUS!

NO-- SYMBIOTE INFECTING THINKING--

--KILL HIM--

--GET CONTROL--

SEDATIVES.

SHRAK

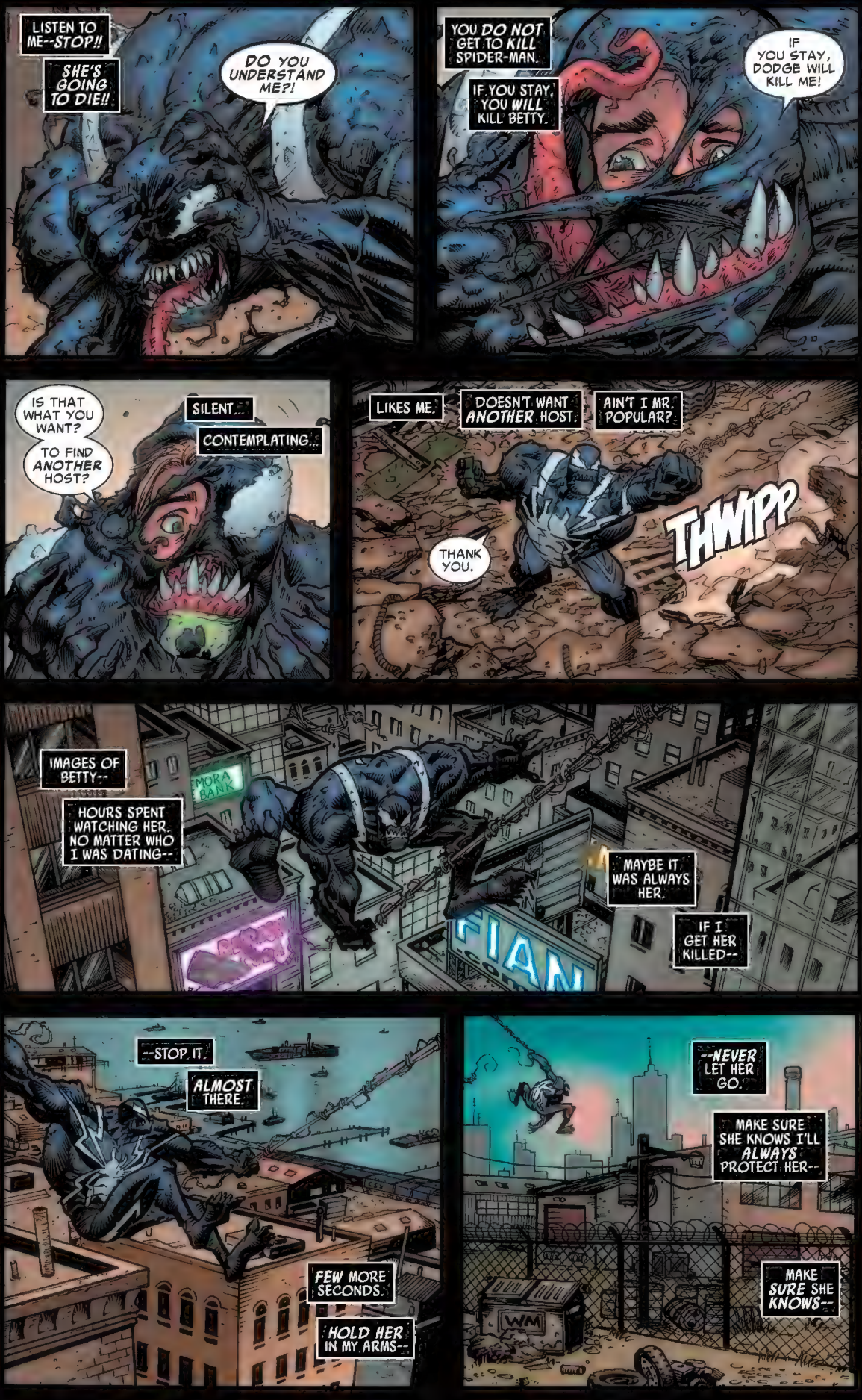
NOM NOM NOM

EAT 'EM ALL-- HUNDREDS OF PILLS--

WHAT THE--?

--CALM IT DOWN--

HITS HARD... RAGE GOES SLEEPY...
NOT DONE FIGHTING ME...
BUT SLEEPY...
J-JUST TELL ME =KOFF= WHERE SHE IS--
FIGHT YOU W-WHEREVER YOU WANT =KOFF= JUST LET ME SAVE HER.
SEDATIVES-- FADING FAST--
SYMBIOTE'S RAGE GROWING--
ONE SHOT AT THIS--
W-WWARE- HHOUSSSE...
VALLENTTINE LLANE.
VALENTINE LANE? IS THAT WHERE SHE IS? CAN I TRUST YOU--
WWEEE DDON'T CARE WHO YYOU TTRUSST-- WE WWILL DEAL WITH BBETTTYY--
PEDESTRIANS ALL AROUND ME--
--MY GOD!
YOUU WILL BE DDEAD!
GET BACK! ALL OF YOU-- GET BACK!!
HE'S GONNA KILL US!!
LOOK OUT!
NO TIME FOR WEBBING--
ONLY TIME FOR THE HARD WAY--
YERAGH--


LISTEN TO ME--STOP!!
SHE'S GOING TO DIE!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?!
YOU DO NOT GET TO KILL SPIDER-MAN.
IF YOU STAY, YOU WILL KILL BETTY.
IF YOU STAY, DODGE WILL KILL ME!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
TO FIND ANOTHER HOST?
SILENT...
CONTEMPLATING...
LIKES ME.
DOESN'T WANT ANOTHER HOST.
AIN'T I MR. POPULAR?
THWIPP
THANK YOU.
IMAGES OF BETTY--
HOURS SPENT WATCHING HER. NO MATTER WHO I WAS DATING--
MORA BANK
MAYBE IT WAS ALWAYS HER.
IF I GET HER KILLED--
--STOP IT.
ALMOST THERE.
FEW MORE SECONDS.
HOLD HER IN MY ARMS--
--NEVER LET HER GO.
MAKE SURE SHE KNOWS I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT HER--
MAKE SURE SHE KNOWS--
WM

--I'LL ALWAYS LOVE HER.
KRAKOOOOOOOOOM
AND IN ONE SECOND...
...IT ALL GOES AWAY.
NO...
EVERY GOOD THING IN MY LIFE...
B-BETTY...
THE TRUTH HITS ME HARD.
I'M NO HERO...

...I'M THE VILLAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE JUST FINE, MISS. BRANT.
SHE'S IN SHOCK BUT SHE'S ALIVE.
YOU HEAR ME?!
YOU FAILED.
THANNK YOU...DEARR GODD...THHANK YOU...
ARE YOU THANKING ME?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DERANGED SICKO YOU ARE, OR HOW YOU GOT THAT SYMBIOTE--BUT WE ARE NOT DONE.
I'LL FIND YOU. AND WHEN I DO...
...YOU WON'T BE THANKING ME.
SYMBIOTE GIVES OVER CONTROL.
WENT TOO FAR--KNOWS IT.
A SPIDER TRACER.
KEEP IT.
BRING IT WITH.
ONCE I STOP THE SHIPMENT, I'LL PROBABLY NEED SPIDER-MAN TO FIND ME AGAIN...

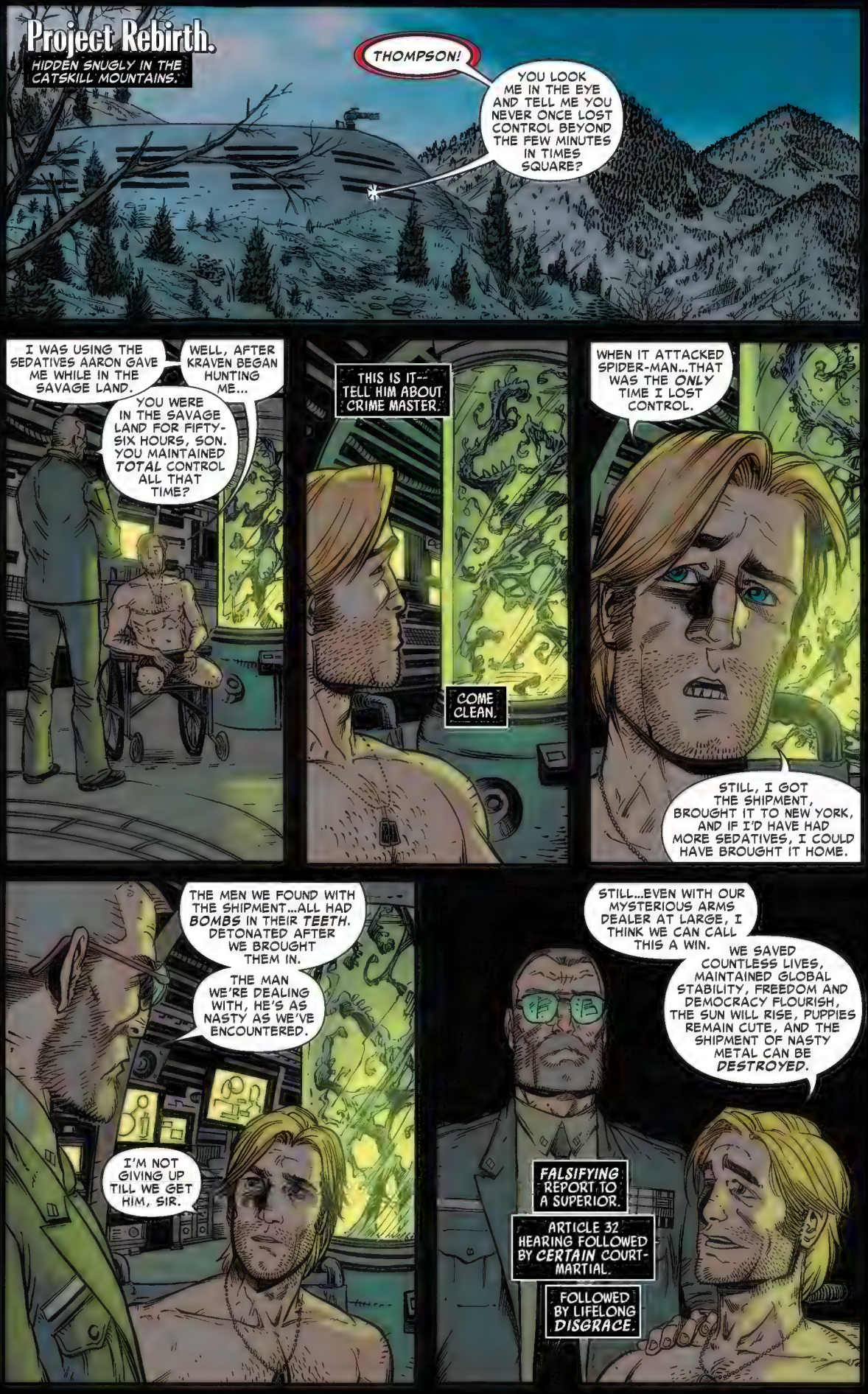
FIND ME AND TAKE ME DOWN.
KATHERINE? ARE YOU THER--
THIS IS GENERAL DODGE, SON.
YOU BETTER HAVE ONE SWEET AND STICKY SONG TO SING ME, YOU--
SCOLDING WILL HAVE TO WAIT-- THE VIBRANIUM SHIPMENT IS IN NEW YORK.
EN ROUTE TO STOP IT NOW.
HAVE SOME SEDATIVES IN ME, HAVE CONTROL OVER THE SUIT.
I'M SENDING YOU THE LOCATION.
I WUV TO PWARTY.
AND, SIR, I APPRECIATE NOT BEING BLOWN UP.
YES...WELL, LET'S SAVE THE APPRECIATION AND FOCUS ON SALVAGING THE JOB AT HAND.
YOU DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO--
I WUV YOUR COSTOOME.
I WUV YOUR SOWL.
I WUV YOUR BWUUD.
--YOU STOP THAT DAMNED SHIPMENT, CORPORAL.
AWW-- C'MON!

I WUV DESTWUCTION!
I WUV FWIRE!
FWOOOSH
GHA--!
I WUV MWURDER!
KRUCHH
MY BWAINS!!
GET THE SHIPMENT--
--IF THAT STUFF IS DISTRIBUTED--
WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
THWIPP
I APPRECIATE ALL THE "WUV," GENTLEMEN...BUT I'M LIKE THE LYNYRD SKYNYRD OF THE SUPER HERO SET--
TAXI
HORNE
GOTTA BE AS FREE AS A BIRD NOW...
SHWOOOOSH
EWW-- I DON'T WUV SKWYNYRD.

AND THIS BIRD YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE!
DON'T HAVE TIME FOR JACK O' LANTERN--
HE DOESN'T CARE.
KRAAAK
AND THIS BIRD YOU CANNOT CHANGE!
HMM. GOOD FUN.
ANY-HOO, SHIPMENT'S ALREADY ON ITS WAY TO OUR PROCESSING FACILITY.
IF YOU WANT TO STOP IT, ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS ONE THING--

--GET PAST ME.
OOF--!
WUNKk
I'M MOVING IN SLOW MOTION--
YEARS TOO LATE--
KA-DOOOOOM
I NEW AT THIS-- NEVER HAD A NEMESIS.
SYMBIOTE'S COOKED.
DOPED UP ON SEDATIVES.
KRAVEN.
SPIDER-MAN.
--I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT.
I KILLED ALL THE JERKS WHO WORE THIS MASK BEFORE ME...
NONE OF THEM WERE ARCH-ENEMY CLASS, THOUGH. NOT REALLY.
STILL, I WONDERED HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE, RIGHT?
TO EARN A TRUE ARCH-ENEMY YOU GOTTA HOLD A AWFULLY PERSONAL GRUDGE.
AND, GUESS WHAT?
I'VE GOT ONE.
WITH YOU.

KROOM
THAT GRENADE IN NROSVEKISTAN DID A REAL NUMBER ON ME.*
AND I DID JUST TRY TO BLOW UP YOUR BEST GAL.
ARCH-ENEMY 101.
BACK IN ISSUE #1-- S.W.
DADDY-O THINKS YOU'RE SOME KIND OF HOT ASSET. I WANT TO KILL YOU.
MOTIVES AT CROSS-PURPOSES.
HAVE TO KEEP IT OUR LITTLE SECRE--
JACK-- WHERE ARE YOU?!
GOT SIDE-TRACKED--
MY VIBRANIUM IS BEING INTERCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT GOONS!
THE SHIPMENT YOU WERE SENT TO GUARD!!
ON MY WAY.
TO BE CONTINUED.
BE SEEIN' YOU SOON...
...EUGENE.
MAYBE NOT ME...
...BUT YOU'LL BE SEEIN' SOMEONE SOON.


Project Rebirth.
HIDDEN SNUGLY IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS.
THOMPSON!
YOU LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND TELL ME YOU NEVER ONCE LOST CONTROL BEYOND THE FEW MINUTES IN TIMES SQUARE?
I WAS USING THE SEDATIVES AARON GAVE ME WHILE IN THE SAVAGE LAND.
WELL, AFTER KRAVEN BEGAN HUNTING ME...
YOU WERE IN THE SAVAGE LAND FOR FIFTY-SIX HOURS, SON. YOU MAINTAINED TOTAL CONTROL ALL THAT TIME?
THIS IS IT-- TELL HIM ABOUT CRIME MASTER.
COME CLEAN.
WHEN IT ATTACKED SPIDER-MAN...THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME I LOST CONTROL.
STILL, I GOT THE SHIPMENT, BROUGHT IT TO NEW YORK, AND IF I'D HAVE HAD MORE SEDATIVES, I COULD HAVE BROUGHT IT HOME.
THE MEN WE FOUND WITH THE SHIPMENT...ALL HAD BOMBS IN THEIR TEETH. DETONATED AFTER WE BROUGHT THEM IN.
THE MAN WE'RE DEALING WITH, HE'S AS NASTY AS WE'VE ENCOUNTERED.
I'M NOT GIVING UP TILL WE GET HIM, SIR.
STILL...EVEN WITH OUR MYSTERIOUS ARMS DEALER AT LARGE, I THINK WE CAN CALL THIS A WIN.
WE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES, MAINTAINED GLOBAL STABILITY, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY FLOURISH, THE SUN WILL RISE, PUPPIES REMAIN CUTE, AND THE SHIPMENT OF NASTY METAL CAN BE DESTROYED.
FALSIFYING REPORT TO A SUPERIOR.
ARTICLE 32 HEARING FOLLOWED BY CERTAIN COURT-MARTIAL.
FOLLOWED BY LIFELONG DISGRACE.

DESTROYING THAT VIBRANIUM WAS YOUR MISSION, SON. MISSION YOU FAILED.
WHEN YOU WERE BRINGING THE SHIPMENT TO THE MILITARY, DID YOU HONESTLY THINK THEY'D DESTROY IT?
YES, SIR, I DID, SIR. GIVEN ALL I'VE BEEN HEARING IS THAT THIS STUFF IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE USED!
LOOK AT THE RISK WE TAKE SENDING YOU OUT IN THAT SUIT.
IT'S ONE THING WITH VENOM; YOU'VE GOT A GOOD GUY CONTROLLING IT.
THIS VIBRANIUM...IT'S CLEARLY TOO DANGEROUS TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF ANYONE!
ANYONE OTHER THAN US, CORPORAL.
THE GOOD GUYS.
IT'S ALL STARTING TO FEEL A BIT TOO SUBJECTIVE TO ME, SIR.
NOT TO ME IT ISN'T.
GO HOME BEFORE THIS INSUBORDINATION GETS ME UPSET.
TRY AND GET YOUR HEAD AROUND WHO EXACTLY IS IN CHARGE AROUND HERE.
SIR, I WILL, SIR.

Brooklyn.
BETTY BRANT'S APARTMENT.
POLICE JUST LEFT, MRS. BRANT--
BETTY IS FINE--REALLY.
YES, MA'AM--NO--I WAS AT WORK--CLEVELAND--FUND RAISING, YES.
HAPPY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY--THANK YOU--I'LL PASS IT ALONG--BYE.
SOME DAYS I THINK YOU SHOULD DATE MY GRANDMOTHER.
ARMY
THANKS FOR THE INTERCEPTION.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
CONCERNED. CURIOUS IF ANYONE KNOWS WHY YOU WERE TARGETED... TOLD HER WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW.
I KNOW WHY.
THE ORGANIZED CRIME STORY I WROTE GOT THEM UPSET--
HIT A NERVE.
YEAH... MAYBE.
COULD BE A MILLION REASONS...
ARMY
VENOM TOLD SPIDER-MAN WHERE TO FIND ME. THEY WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE.
MORE LIKELY IT WAS SOME SICK SPEED TRIAL.
MAYBE THAT MONSTER WAS USING YOU TO GET TO SPIDER-MAN.
WHY ME? NO...NOT EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS ABOUT SPIDER-MAN, PETE.

MAYBE SPIDER-MAN GOT IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING HERE...I DON'T KNOW.
HE'S JUST A TROUBLE MAGNET.
Y-YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE JONAH...
MAYBE JAMESON HAD A POINT, SPIDER-MAN DOES DRAW TROUBLE.
I'M JUST SAYING, IF IT WEREN'T FOR SPIDER-MAN...
I WOULD'VE SAVED HER MYSELF.
I'D BE DEAD.
SPIDEY'S JUST DOING HIS BEST TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE. SOMETIMES IT WORKS OUT, OTHER TIMES...
I GET IT.
I GET IT.
OR... I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE IT WAS HIS FAULT...
MAYBE SPIDER-MAN BRINGS MORE TROUBLE THAN HE SOLVES...
NO... FORGET IT, I WAS JUST POPPING OFF, MAN.
TOGGLE
MAYBE YOU WERE THE REAL TARGET...
W-WHAT?!
THE HEAD OF SPIDEY'S FAN CLUB-- HIGH VALUE TARGET.
NO, POOR FLASH, YOU CAN'T BE AT THE CENTER OF EVERY DRAMA.
THIS WAS ALL BROUGHT ON BY BETTY BRANT'S CRACK JOURNALISM.
AND THIS'S JUST THE START. IF THEY WERE UPSET BY WHAT I WAS WRITING BEFORE...

I'M GOING TO NEED A PERSONAL SECURITY TEAM WHEN I'M DONE EXPOSING THESE CREEPS.
SPIDER-MAN WAS OUT LOOKING FOR BETTY...
YEAH?
HOW DID HE KNOW SHE WAS IN TROUBLE?
I CALLED THE POLICE.
HE MUST HAVE SOMEONE INSIDE.
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST UNLUCKY...
ENDED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING BAD.
YEAH... THAT MUCH IS CLEAR.

Scoring for training and qualification

X, 10, 9, 8 rings ..... = 5

7 ring ..... = 4

All other hits on silhouette ..... = 3

	Number of Hits	Shot Valu
X		
10		
9		
8		
7		
0		0
Missing		0
Totals		

Scorer's Initials .....

Competitor's Signature .....

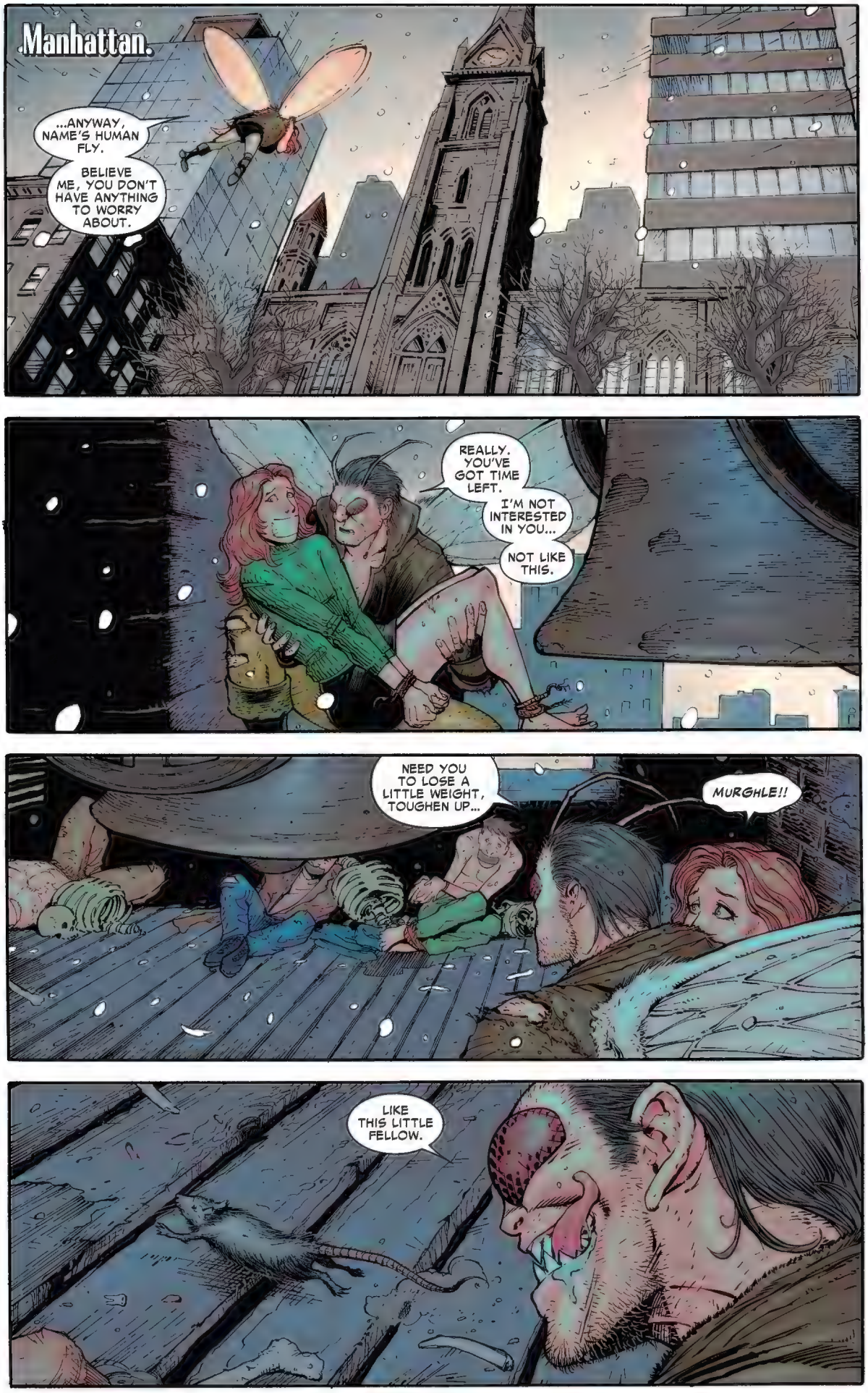
Range Officer's Signature .....

Match # .....

Relay # .....

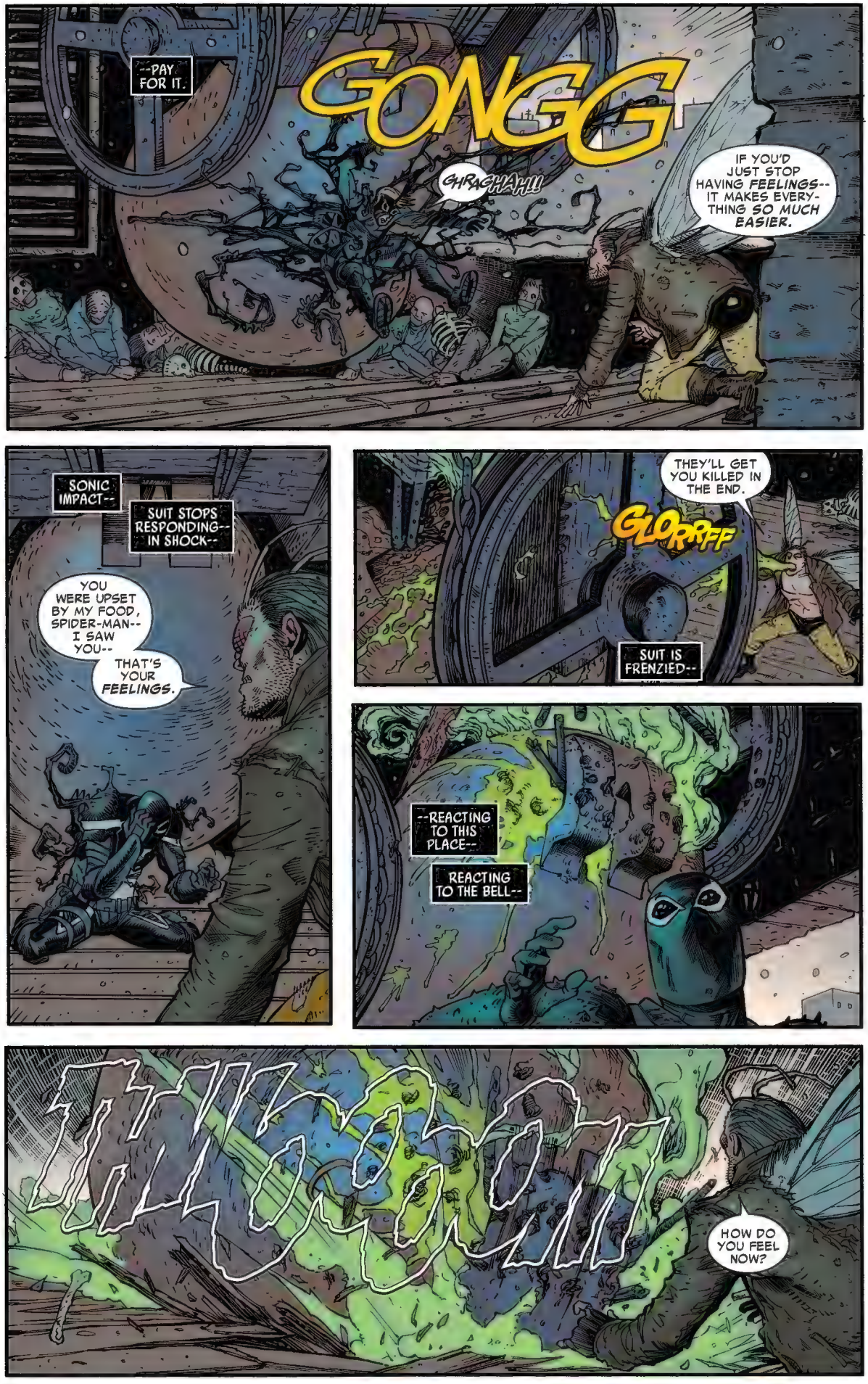
Target # .....

Stage # .....

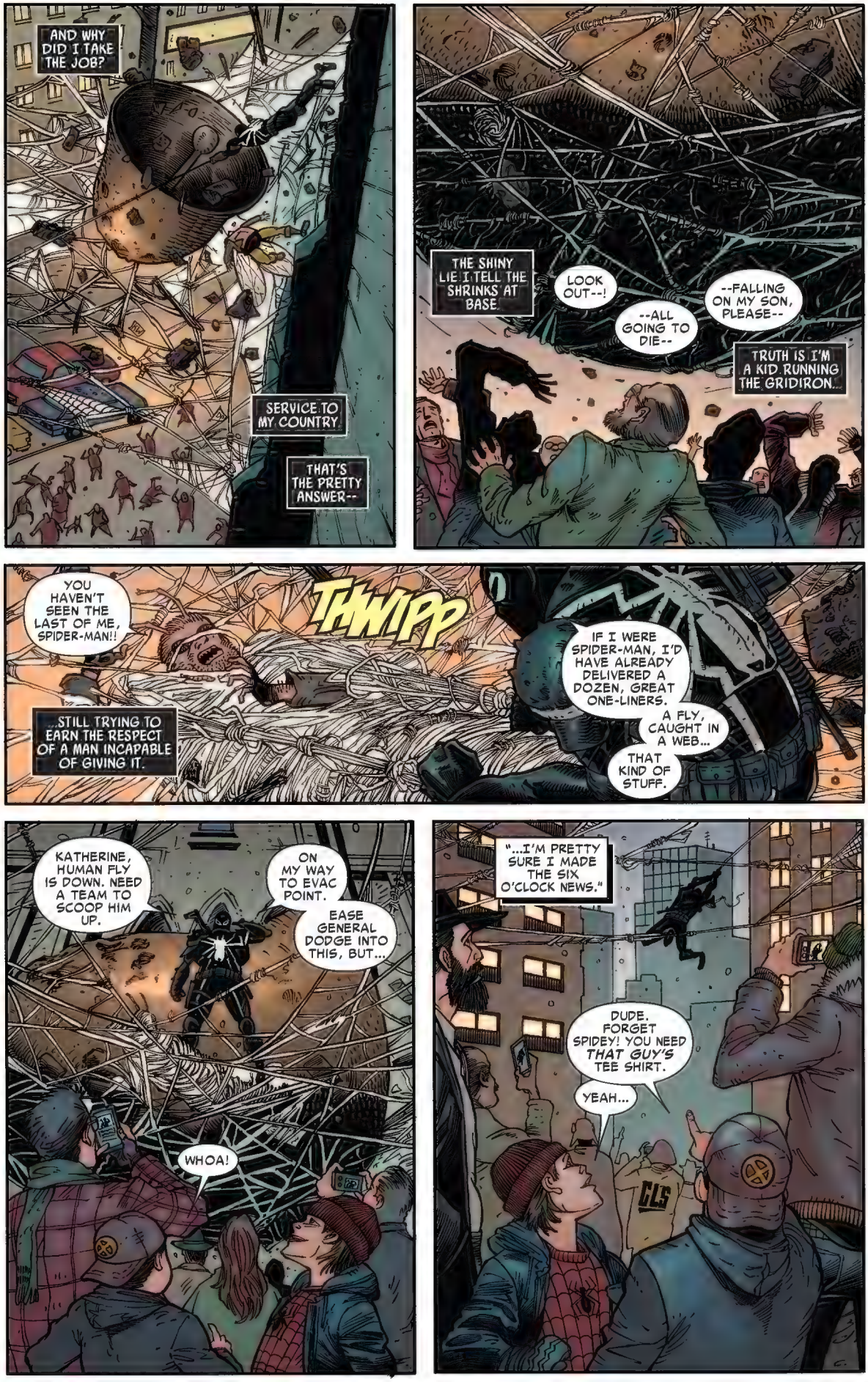

Manhattan.
...ANYWAY, NAME'S HUMAN FLY.
BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
REALLY. YOU'VE GOT TIME LEFT.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU...
NOT LIKE THIS.
NEED YOU TO LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT, TOUGHEN UP...
MURGHLE!!
LIKE THIS LITTLE FELLOW.

GLORFF
SQUEEEE
SCHOMPP
A LITTLE AMUSE-BOUCHE.
TAKES CALORIES TO LIVE. YOU KNOW THAT.
I LIVE. I TAKE CALORIES. CIRCLE OF LIFE.
I SEE YOU-- YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
WATCH IT ON THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL. ANIMALS EAT ANIMALS.
MURGHLE!
NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!
ANIMALS IS WHAT WE ARE.
MURGH-MURLE!!
HUNGRY ANIMA--
TWIPP
ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND THOSE OTHER ANIMALS--

--THEY KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY AND EAT A SENATOR'S DAUGHTER.
TWOKK
I'M NOT COMPLAINING--
--YOUR HIGH DOLLAR DINNER PLANS GOT ME ASSIGNED TO YOUR CASE.
IGNORE THE GORE--
THE SMELL.
PSYCHO KILLS INNOCENTS, FEDERAL AGENT TAKES DOWN PSYCHO--THAT'S THE CIRCLE OF LIFE.
PNG
TNG
SNG
BLAP BLAP BLAP
A YOUNG BOY WITH NO STOMACH STARES AT ME FROM ACROSS THE ROOM.
TWO TOURS OF DUTY, NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE--
GLORFF
GHRAGH--!!
DAMMIT-- FAST AS HELL--
KLOOOM
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING?!
DISTRACTED--


--PAY FOR IT.
GONGG
GHRAGHAH!!
IF YOU'D JUST STOP HAVING FEELINGS-- IT MAKES EVERY-THING SO MUCH EASIER.
SONIC IMPACT--
SUIT STOPS RESPONDING-- IN SHOCK--
YOU WERE UPSET BY MY FOOD, SPIDER-MAN-- I SAW YOU--
THAT'S YOUR FEELINGS.
THEY'LL GET YOU KILLED IN THE END.
GLORRFF
SUIT IS FRENZIED--
--REACTING TO THIS PLACE--
REACTING TO THE BELL--
HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?

THEY COME FOR YOU.
PRIZED GAZELLE.
MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE REST OF THE HERD-- MORE DELICIOUS.
YO, JEFF GOLDBLUM CALLED--
AND HE WANTS--
AH, SCREW IT.
OPEN WIDE.
GOTTA CONTROL THIS VENOM SYMBIOTE.
RAGE NEARLY OUT OF CONTROL-- TEMPERAMENT NOT MY STRONG POINT.
WHY THE HELL DID THEY CHOOSE ME?
GLLOOOOM
SOME BLIND GENERAL WANTS TO EMPOWER A FELLOW DISABLED WAR HERO.
HE SAYS, "THIS ONE'S THE HEAD OF SPIDER-MAN'S FAN CLUB."
"SURE-- WHY NOT?
"CHANCES ARE WE'LL HAVE TO BLOW HIM UP IN A FEW WEEKS ANYWAY."
TWIPP

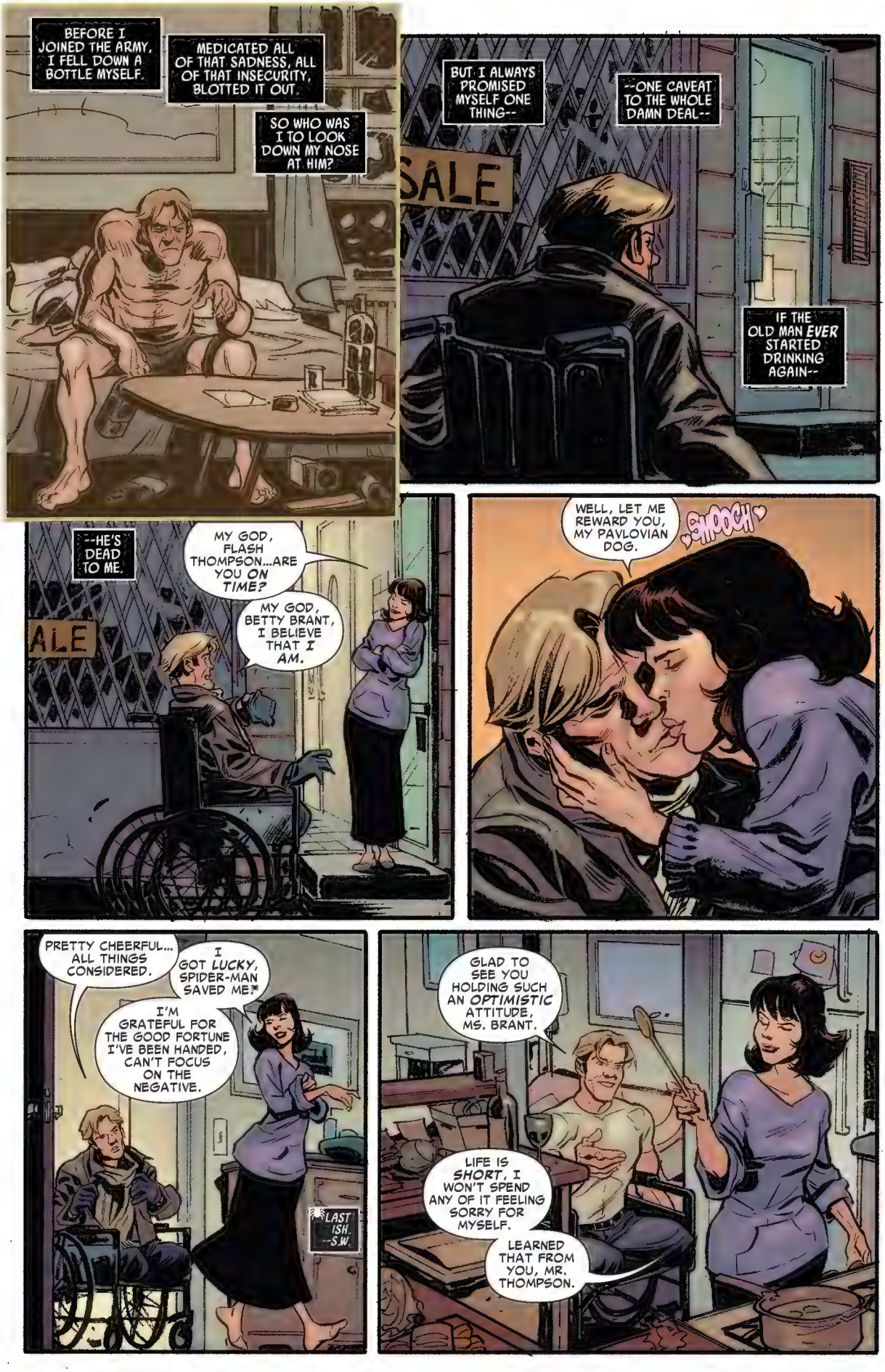

AND WHY DID I TAKE THE JOB?
SERVICE TO MY COUNTRY.
THAT'S THE PRETTY ANSWER--
THE SHINY LIE I TELL THE SHRINKS AT BASE.
LOOK OUT--!
--ALL GOING TO DIE--
--FALLING ON MY SON, PLEASE--
TRUTH IS I'M A KID RUNNING THE GRIDIRON...
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME, SPIDER-MAN!!
THWIPP
...STILL TRYING TO EARN THE RESPECT OF A MAN INCAPABLE OF GIVING IT.
IF I WERE SPIDER-MAN, I'D HAVE ALREADY DELIVERED A DOZEN, GREAT ONE-LINERS.
A FLY, CAUGHT IN A WEB...
THAT KIND OF STUFF.
KATHERINE, HUMAN FLY IS DOWN. NEED A TEAM TO SCOOP HIM UP.
ON MY WAY TO EVAC POINT.
EASE GENERAL DODGE INTO THIS, BUT...
WHOA!
"...I'M PRETTY SURE I MADE THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS."
DUDE. FORGET SPIDEY! YOU NEED *THAT GUY'S* TEE SHIRT.
YEAH...
CLS

SAVED A DOZEN LIVES.
APPREHENDED A TWISTED KILLER.
ALL IN FORTY-NINE SECONDS WITH NOT A SINGLE CASUALTY.
MY REWARD: A SCOLDING FOR BEING FILMED.
SHOULD'VE TOLD GENERAL DODGE ABOUT CRIME-MASTER.
THAT HE COMPROMISED ME.
THEY'D TAKE THE SUIT. MANDATORY RELOCATION.
BETTY'D BE REAL HAPPY ABOUT THAT.
NEW LIFE AS EUGENE ELLINGTON, LEGLESS CAR SALESMAN FROM TACOMA.
NO, THANK YOU.
I'LL DEAL WITH CRIME MASTER.
JUST KEEP LYING TO DODGE.
LYING TO BETTY.
DEEP DEEP DEEP
NEW HIGHLIGHTS IN A LONG LINE OF BRILLIANT THOMPSON CHOICES.
÷DEEEP÷ FLASH, IT'S MOM. I HOPE YOU'RE WELL.
I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE... YOU'VE BEEN ON MY MIND.
I'M CALLING BECAUSE...I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FATHER... NOT FOR A FEW DAYS.
...HE'D BEEN COMING HOME DRUNK.
ACTING LIKE HE USED TO...
CALL ME IF YOU'VE SEEN HI--
GHRAHH!
SKLAMM

KRASHH
THE OLD MAN HAD A NICKNAME FOR ME GROWING UP.
"SONNY BOY."
WHEN HE WAS SOBER, IT HAD A FRIENDLY RING TO IT.
WHEN HE WAS DRINKING...
...IT REVEALED HOW MUCH HE HATED ME.
SONNY BOY.

IT'S NOT EVEN A SWEAR WORD.
WORSE SOMEHOW.
HITS HARDER.
HE TOLD MOM IT WAS AFFECTIONATE.
Bedford Avenue Station
L
YOS, SOUVENIRS, HALF OFF! GET A MUG, YOS!
16
HE COACHED MY TEAM IN 5TH GRADE.
WENT IN HARD ON ME...
...HAD TO SHOW THE OTHER PARENTS HE WOULDN'T GO EASY ON HIS BOY.
QUIT CHASING BUTTERFLIES, SONNY BOY!
LIFT UP YOUR DRESS AND RUN!
STILL, IT WAS PREFERABLE TO THE OTHER KIND OF ATTENTION.
I KILLED MYSELF TRYING TO MAKE HIM RESPECT ME.
FOOTBALL UNTIL MY BONES WERE BROKEN.
NEVER A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT.
WHERE WERE YOU STATIONED?
ANBAR PROVINCE. FORCE RECON.
HELP A HUNGRY VET
YOU?
MOSUL. ARMY.
YOU MARINES WERE NO JOKE. SEMPER FI, BROTHER.

STORED UP EVERY BEATING THE OLD MAN LAID DOWN ON ME.
DIVVIED 'EM BACK OUT TO EVERY KID AT SCHOOL.
KIDS LOVE TO WATCH A BULLY WORK SOME POOR GEEK.
ADULTS TOO.
THEY'D CHEER ME ON. THE APPROVAL FELT BETTER THAN THE VENTING.
APPROVAL... SPENT MY LIFE SEEKING VALIDATION FROM OTHERS TO MAKE UP FOR HIS INABILITY TO GIVE ME ANY.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SUCCESS I HAD ON THE GRIDIRON...
NO MATTER HOW MANY OF THE HOTTEST GIRLS I DATED...
NO MATTER HOW MANY MEDALS I WON...
NO PRAISE I EVER RECEIVED COULD SATISFY ME.
BECAUSE IT WASN'T FROM HIM.
AN ETERNAL 10-YEAR-OLD WAITING FOR HIS DAD TO SAY SOMETHING NICE.
JOINING THE ARMY WAS THE FIRST THING I EVER DID FOR MYSELF.
AND THE FIRST TIME HE WAS EVER EVEN A LITTLE PROUD OF ME.
MOM SAID HE'D STOPPED DRINKING...
...SAID HE HAD HIS TWO-YEAR SOBER CHIP.
SHE MADE ME PROMISE I'D GIVE HIM A SECOND CHANCE.
SWALLOW THE YEARS OF HIS CRAP AND START AT ZERO.


BEFORE I JOINED THE ARMY, I FELL DOWN A BOTTLE MYSELF.
MEDICATED ALL OF THAT SADNESS, ALL OF THAT INSECURITY, BLOTTED IT OUT.
SO WHO WAS I TO LOOK DOWN MY NOSE AT HIM?
BUT I ALWAYS PROMISED MYSELF ONE THING--
--ONE CAVEAT TO THE WHOLE DAMN DEAL--
SALE
IF THE OLD MAN EVER STARTED DRINKING AGAIN--
--HE'S DEAD TO ME.
MY GOD, FLASH THOMPSON...ARE YOU ON TIME?
MY GOD, BETTY BRANT, I BELIEVE THAT I AM.
ALE
WELL, LET ME REWARD YOU, MY PAVLOVIAN DOG.
SMOOCH
PRETTY CHEERFUL... ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
I GOT LUCKY, SPIDER-MAN SAVED ME.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE GOOD FORTUNE I'VE BEEN HANDED, CAN'T FOCUS ON THE NEGATIVE.
LAST ISH. --S.W.
GLAD TO SEE YOU HOLDING SUCH AN OPTIMISTIC ATTITUDE, MS. BRANT.
LIFE IS SHORT, I WON'T SPEND ANY OF IT FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF.
LEARNED THAT FROM YOU, MR. THOMPSON.

PLUS, THERE'S A SILVER LINING-- I'M WRITING AGAIN.
I GOT MY BLOG BACK UP. MY LATEST ARTICLE ON THE KINGPIN'S RETURN HAS HAD ALMOST A MILLION HITS.
THAT'S *AMAZING*, BETTY. DANGEROUS, BUT AMAZING.
IF THE CRIMINALS IN THIS CITY THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO SHUT ME UP--
--THEY WERE WRONG, BUB.
SNIKT!
LISTEN, ALL THESE V.A. FUNDRAISING TRIPS...
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE.
I GET IT...STILL, IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR A CALL.
I'M WORTH A CALL.
I'LL BE BLUNT, FLASH. IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, *YOU'RE NOT HERE*.
AT SOME POINT I'LL HAVE TO *GET ON* WITH MY LIFE.
EVENTUALLY, I WON'T ANSWER WHEN YOU *DO* CALL.
I GET IT. I DO.
AND I'M SORRY THAT I'VE BEEN SO BAD ABOUT IT.
IT'S BEEN *STRESSFUL*... I'M ABSOLUTELY EXHAUSTED.

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO EXHAUSTED TO MAKE UP WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, MR. THOMPSON.
BECAUSE YOUR GIRLFRIEND NEEDS TO BE MADE UP WITH.
I THINK I'VE GOT EXACTLY ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT TO--
BREEP BREEP BROOP
TUES: Check measen approval rating
I'M SORRY--I HAVE TO CHECK...
I GET IT--DUTY CALLS.
MOM?
OKAY, CALM DOWN.
I GOT YOUR MESSAGE--NO--YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THIS IS NOT MY PROBLEM ANYMORE.
NO--IT'S NOT.
I TOLD YOU BOTH--I CAN GET OVER EVERYTHING--I CAN MOVE PAST IT--GET ON WITH MY LIFE--
BUT I CAN'T--I WON'T--IF HE'S STILL DRINKING.

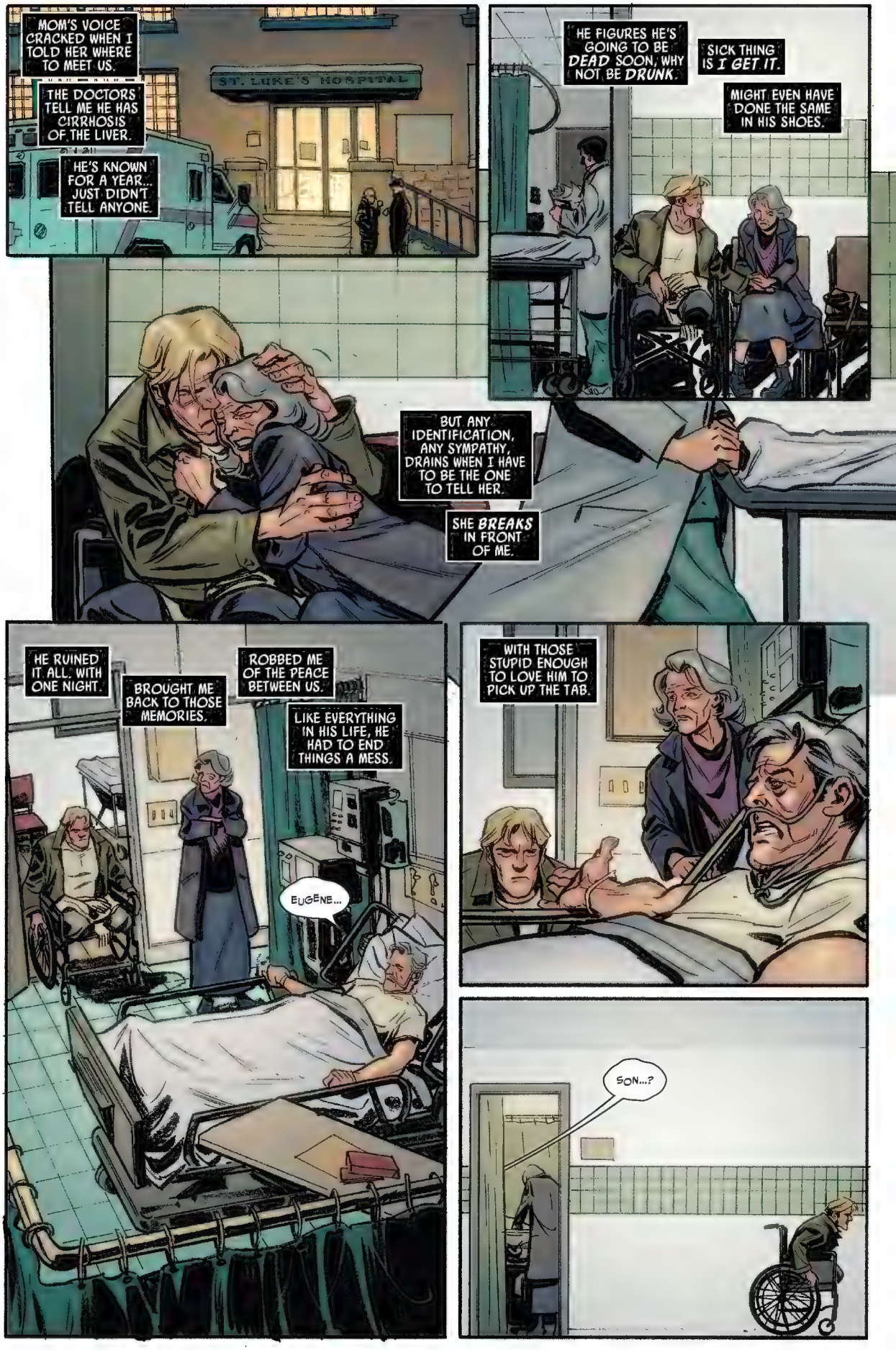
YOU MARRIED HIM-- I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER!
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO DISRUPT A SINGLE EVENING OF MY LIFE TO GO PULL HIM OUT OF SOME DANK BAR YOU HAVE--
...
DON'T... DON'T CRY, MOM. I'M SORRY.
I KNOW YOU'RE ALONE. I'M SORRY.
I WILL-- I PROMISE-- I'LL BRING HIM HOME.
FLASH? ARE YOU OKAY?
I HAVE TO GO.
YOU WANT ME TO COME WITH?
I'LL COME WITH...

THANKS FOR COMING, PETE.
OF COURSE. I'M ALWAYS HERE, FLASH. NO NEED TO THANK ME.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW ARE YOU?
JUGGLING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. IT'S JUST THROWING THIS LITTLE CHERRY ON TOP...
IT'S A BIT *MUCH*.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GO IN ALONE?
THANKS, PARKER, BUT I'M OKAY.
NOPE. DON'T KNOW 'IM.
THANK YOU.
"SORRY, HAVEN'T SEEN HARRISON IN AGES."
"DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR."
"WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, MISSING PERSONS? NEVER SEEN 'IM."
"DON'T KNOW. BUT, IF YOU AIN'T DRINKIN', GOTTA ASK YOU TO LEAVE."
"SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE COME AN' GO... HE DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR."
ANY OTHER IDEAS WHERE HE MIGHT GO?
ANY OTHER BARS HE'D FREQUENT WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

NO, SORRY, PETE!
AFTER THE SON OF A BITCH WOULD LOSE HIS MIND AND BEAT ME, I DIDN'T ASK WHAT BAR HE'D BE HITTING UP NEXT!
KLAM
QUICK TO ANGER, SECRETIVE, ABUSIVE, AND WITHHOLDING...
APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE, HUH?
IT FELL PRETTY FAR.
YOU ARE NOT YOUR DAD, FLASH.
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
AND BEFORE YOU ANSWER, REMEMBER I CAN DUMP YOU OVER RIGHT HERE.
BREEP BREEP
HELLO?
THANK YOU...
"...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE."
AND THAT'S HOW WE DID IT BACK IN MY DAY...
NYPD

CRACK 'EM AN' STACK 'EM. HAD TO *HIC* IT WAS A DIFFERENT TIME.
HOW I'D BE DOING IT NOW *HIC* YOU COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO, PAUL.
THAT'S GREAT, HARRISON.
IF I WERE STILL IN THE DEPARTMENT, THING'S BE DIFFERENT. NO QUESTION. IF I WERE STILL A COP--
DAD, IT'S *TIME* TO GO.
AHH--YOU RATTED ME OUT, PAUL?
YOU'RE THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND, HARRISON. YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
WHEN I'M READY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, BOY.
I'M ***NOT*** WORRIED ABOUT ***YOU***. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE POOR WOMAN WHO DECIDED TO SPEND HER LIFE WITH YOU.
I TOLD HER I'D BRING YOU HOME--
THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE ***SALT*** TO TAKE ME WHEN YOU ***HAD*** LEGS--
YOU OUGHTA THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU START ***POPPING*** OFF THAT MOUTH OF YOURS, ***SONNY BOY***.

HAVE A DRINK.
MAYBE IT'LL HELP.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
I GOT A WEAK CRIPPLE FOR A KID!
WIDE OPEN-- BREAK HIS NOSE.
SMASH HIS SNARLING MOUTH. SHUT HIM UP--
PAY HIM BACK.
IT'S WHAT HE'D DO TO ME.
WHA--
BUT I'M NOT HIM.
YOU DON'T IMPRESS ME.
CRIPPLED FREELOADER-- LIVIN' ON THE GOVERNMENT TIT. NO JOB...
LEANING ON UNCLE SAM WITH THE REST OF THE LOSERS.
GET WHAT YOU DESERVE IN THIS LIFE... GET...
...YOU DESERVE...
KRASH


MOM'S VOICE CRACKED WHEN I TOLD HER WHERE TO MEET US.
THE DOCTORS TELL ME HE HAS CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.
HE'S KNOWN FOR A YEAR... JUST DIDN'T TELL ANYONE.
ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL
HE FIGURES HE'S GOING TO BE DEAD SOON, WHY NOT BE DRUNK.
SICK THING IS I GET IT.
MIGHT EVEN HAVE DONE THE SAME IN HIS SHOES.
BUT ANY IDENTIFICATION, ANY SYMPATHY, DRAINS WHEN I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL HER.
SHE BREAKS IN FRONT OF ME.
HE RUINED IT ALL. WITH ONE NIGHT.
BROUGHT ME BACK TO THOSE MEMORIES.
ROBBED ME OF THE PEACE BETWEEN US.
LIKE EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE, HE HAD TO END THINGS A MESS.
EUGENE...
WITH THOSE STUPID ENOUGH TO LOVE HIM TO PICK UP THE TAB.
SON...?

BREEP
BREEP
BREEP
BREEP
DON'T ANS--
THIS IS FLASH.
SIR, YES, SIR.
I UNDERSTAND...
...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

TM
'11
RAUCH

New York City. Now.
IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF MANHATTAN HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH SPIDER POWERS.
THOMPSON, YOU AND THAT SYMBIOTE ARE THE BEST RESOURCE WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS.
TURNS OUT WHEN A RANDOM SAMPLING OF HUMANS ARE HANDED SUPER-POWERS, MORE GO BAD THAN GOOD.
SIR, THESE ARE CIVILIANS...WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO DOWN THERE?
"THE CITY HAS BEEN QUARANTINED, BUT A GIANT SPIDER-BEAST IS PUSHING THROUGH AT A CITY WIDE CORDON CHARGED WITH HOLDING BACK THE INFECTED POPULATION.
"THIS THING HOLDS THE ANSWERS TO WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT WANTS."
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOING ANOTHER STEP. GOD AS MY WITNESS--
--THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO!
NOT AS FARRR!
BRING IT IN--ALIVE--AND I CAN GIVE THE GENERAL SOME IDEA WHAT IT IS.
ALIVE. EASY TO SAY, RIGHT? JUST SLIDES RIGHT OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
FLASH, I HAVE BETTY BRANT ON YOUR CELL PHONE LINE... DIRECTING TO YOUR EARPIECE.
FLASH, MY GOD, WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M DOWNTOWN, BETTY-- TRAPPED IN THE SUBWAY, IT'S PANDEMONIUM--
I'M STILL AT THE HOSPITAL... WAITING...WITH YOUR DAD.
--MOVE IT! SOMEONE GET ME A GURNEY--
--MY SON! HAS ANYONE--
--THIRD FLOOR, AND HURRY--

THEY'RE EVACUATING EVERYONE--THE AREA IS GETTING TOO DANGEROUS.

THEY CAN'T MOVE YOUR FATHER, DOCTOR'S JUST NOT SURE THAT HE'D SURVIVE BEING TRANSPORTED.

I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE HIM, FLASH.

BUT LISTEN... HE'S...

JUST... GET HERE AS SOON AS YOU CAN...

"...THINGS DON'T LOOK GOOD."

YOU'RE NOT GETTING BY! DO YOU GET IT?!

TWONGG

KWUDD

YOU GET IT?

I DON'T--

BUT I DIDN'T HEAR THE JOKE.

KWWUDD

BETTY DIDN'T TRY AND SWEETEN THE SITUATION UP ANY.

MADE SURE I KNEW--

NO SECOND CHANCE AT THIS--

DAD'S DYING.

LET HIM.

BRAKKA BRAKKA

PNG

TNG

PNG

BRAKKA

SNK

GRAKK--!

NOT MY PROBLEM.

GAVE HIM ENOUGH SECOND CHANCES--

SSHHHHH

DAMMIT--

ACIDIC WEBBING.

HEAD IN THE GAME, THOMPSON.

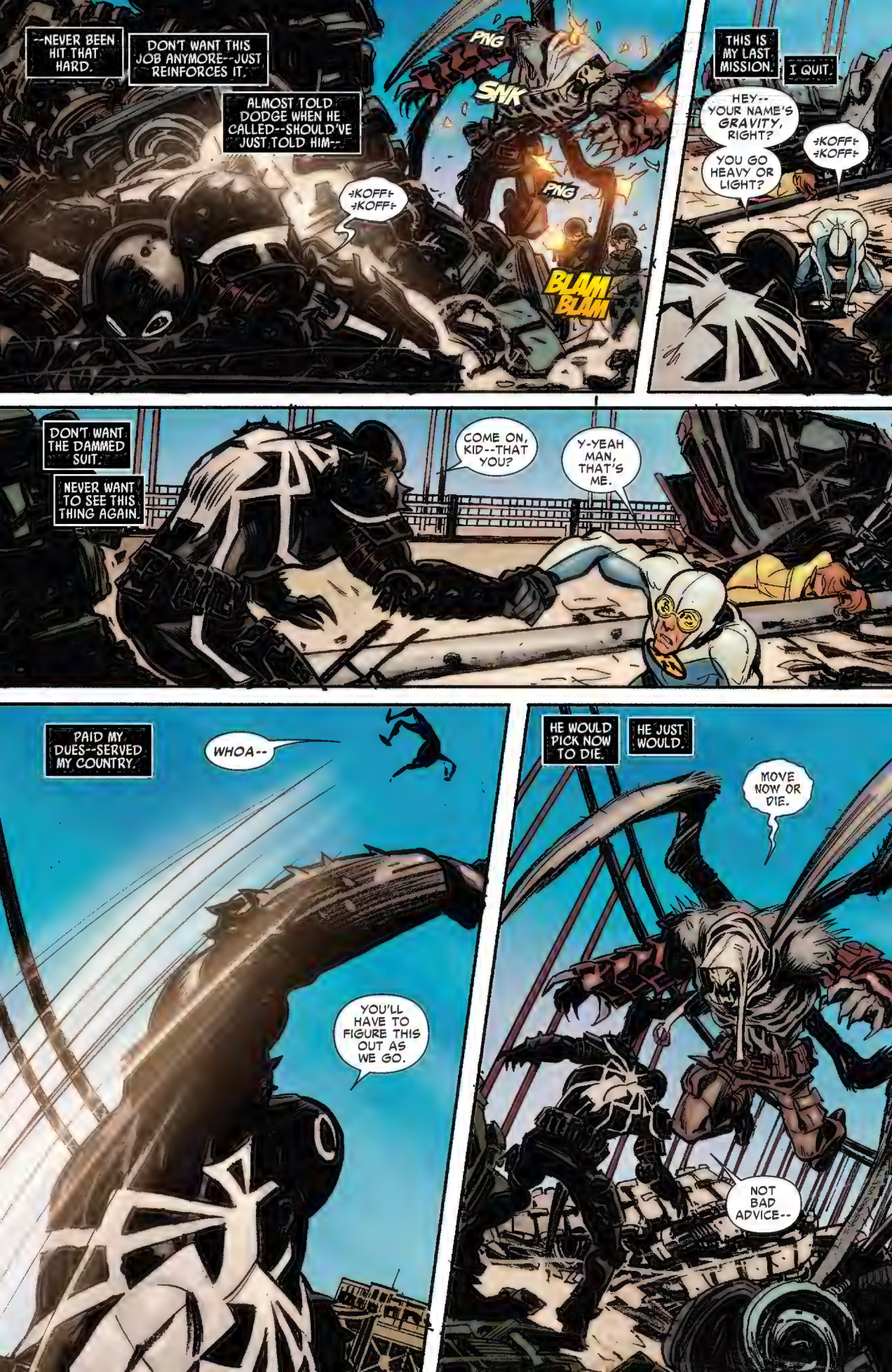
BUT HOLD BACK--

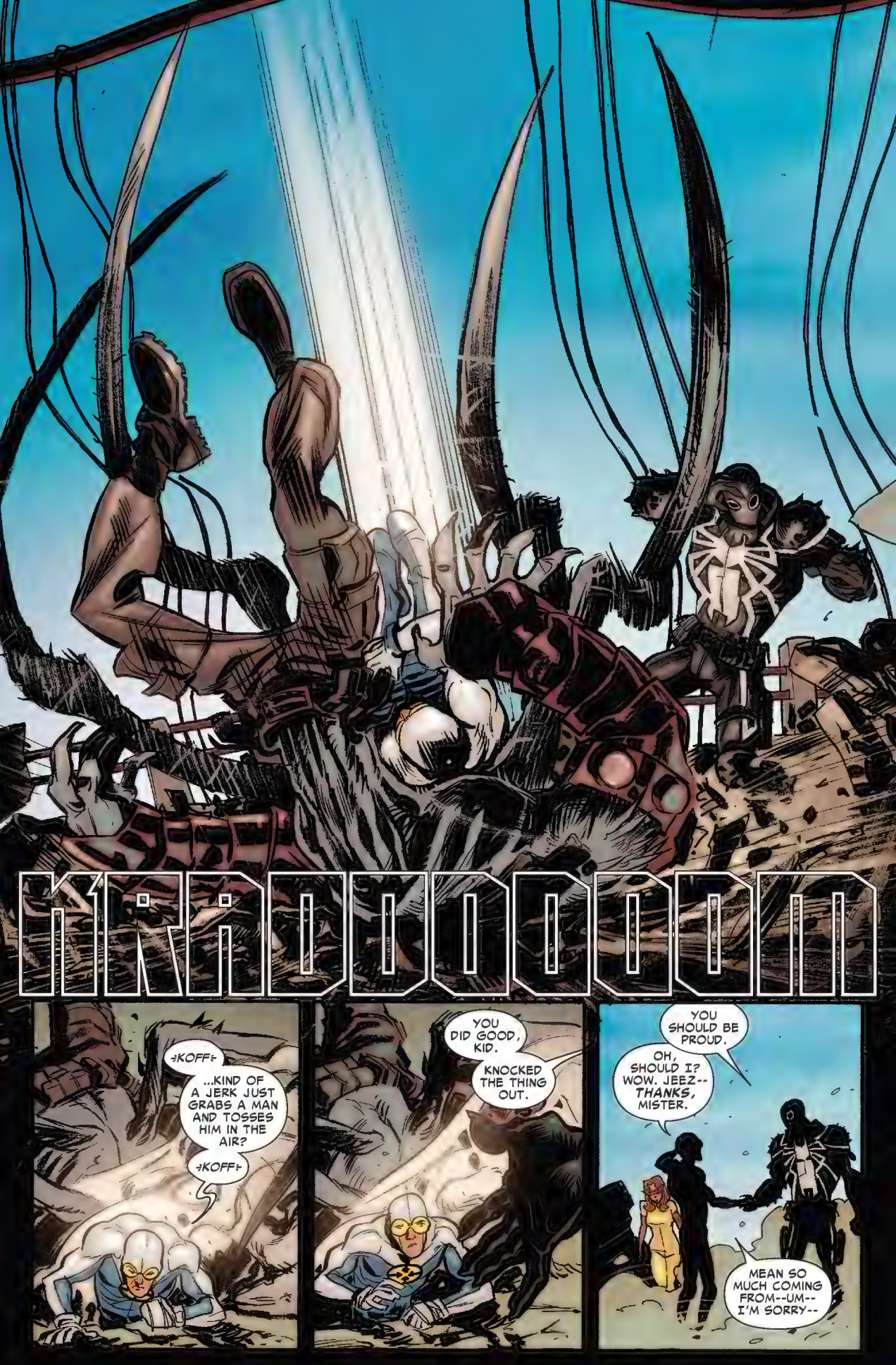
GAUGE WHAT HE'S WORTH--

--DON'T WANT HIM DEAD--

--HE DOESN'T SHOW THE SAME COURTESY--
--FANGS--
SOMETHING ICY TRICKLES DOWN MY BACK--
--NOT COLD--
SCHUNKK
GHRAAWGHH!
POISON--
HOLDING BACK-- ARROGANT--
DISTRACTED-- WRAP THIS UP--
CRUSH ITS THROAT--
--TEAR OFF ITS HEAD--
KILL THE SON OF A BITCH!
GRAKK--!
BLAM BLAM
BLAM
--SHUT UP--
CALM DOWN.
GET CONTROL.
GET SOME SPACE.

BETTY'S VOICE--
BLAM BLAM
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT--
JUST LIKE MY FATHER TO PICK RIGHT NOW TO START DYING.
FOCUS-- CAN'T LET THIS THING PASS--
GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP TO--GOD KNOWS--
AARON WANTS THIS THING ALIVE--
--AWFUL EASY WORD TO SAY.
KNULL


--NEVER BEEN HIT THAT HARD.
DON'T WANT THIS JOB ANYMORE--JUST REINFORCES IT.
ALMOST TOLD DODGE WHEN HE CALLED--SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD HIM--
PNG
SNK
PNG
BLAM BLAM
-KOFF- -KOFF-
THIS IS MY LAST MISSION.
I QUIT.
HEY--YOUR NAME'S GRAVITY, RIGHT?
YOU GO HEAVY OR LIGHT?
-KOFF- -KOFF-
DON'T WANT THE DAMMED SUIT.
NEVER WANT TO SEE THIS THING AGAIN.
COME ON, KID--THAT YOU?
Y-YEAH MAN, THAT'S ME.
PAID MY DUES--SERVED MY COUNTRY.
WHOA--
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGURE THIS OUT AS WE GO.
HE WOULD PICK NOW TO DIE.
HE JUST WOULD.
MOVE NOW OR DIE.
NOT BAD ADVICE--


KRAKOOOOM
KOFF
...KIND OF A JERK JUST GRABS A MAN AND TOSSES HIM IN THE AIR?
KOFF
YOU DID GOOD, KID.
KNOCKED THE THING OUT.
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.
OH, SHOULD I? WOW. JEEZ-- THANKS, MISTER.
MEAN SO MUCH COMING FROM--UM-- I'M SORRY--

"...WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?"
THE MONSTER'S BLOOD IS BEING PROCESSED NOW--
HOPEFULLY IT'LL OFFER A CLUE AS TO WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
Project Rebirth
I'D LIKE TO RUN IT AGAINST SOME DNA SAMPLES FROM SPIDER-MAN...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY.
THOMPSON WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF HIS FAN CLUB--MAYBE HE HAS A "DNA SAMPLE"?
FUNNY.
LOT OF OTHER FOLKS HE COULD BE DERIVED FROM--SPIDER-WOMAN, SPIDER-GIRL, SPIDER-CLAM, SPIDER-CHICKEN...
THAT FIGHT GREW YOU A SENSE OF HUMOR. YOU FEELIN' OKAY?
YEAH...BUT I GOT THAT LIONEL RICHIE SONG "HELLO" STUCK IN MY HEAD. TOO BAD YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT A WAY TO USE THAT AS A WEAPON.
LIEUTENANT MCKENZIE, A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF MANHATTAN IS DEVELOPING SUPER-HUMAN SPIDER POWERS.
THIS THING HOLDS THE KEY TO SOLVING OUR DILEMMA. QUIT TRADING KNITTING TIPS AND FIGURE IT THE HELL OUT.
WHAT WERE THEY SENDING YOU TO DO, YOU GIANT UGLY SON OF A BITCH?
WHY DON'T YOU SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TROUBLE AND JUST COUGH IT UP.
COUGH IT UP.

COUGH IT UP!
HEY!
GRRK
THIS BASTARD'S UP TO SOMETHING!
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE?
I-IT'S...THE SPIDER CREATURE IS VOMITING UP... THOUSANDS OF TINY SPIDERS.
I THINK I KNOW WHY THEY WERE SENDING HIM OUT OF THE CITY...
...HE'S A SPORE SAC--HE'S SPREADING THE VIRUS.
WE ARE FIFTEEN MILES AWAY FROM A HIGHLY POPULATED AREA!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. SHOULDN'T.
NOTHING CAN GET OUT OF THAT CONTAINMENT CHAMBER...
KRETCHH

THAT IS THE WORST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.

KRA-DAAAASH

KRSHH

BAD NEWS WAGON--

SYMBIOTE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A RIVER OF VIRUS-FILLED SPIDERS.

SPIDERS THAT I COLLECTED AND BROUGHT HERE--

TWOOOM

--SPREADING THE DISEASE--

--EXACTLY *SOMEONE'S* PLAN.

JUST NOT MINE.

THE SYMBIOTE-- I *HAVE TO GET TO IT!*

THAT THING WILL KILL YOU--!!

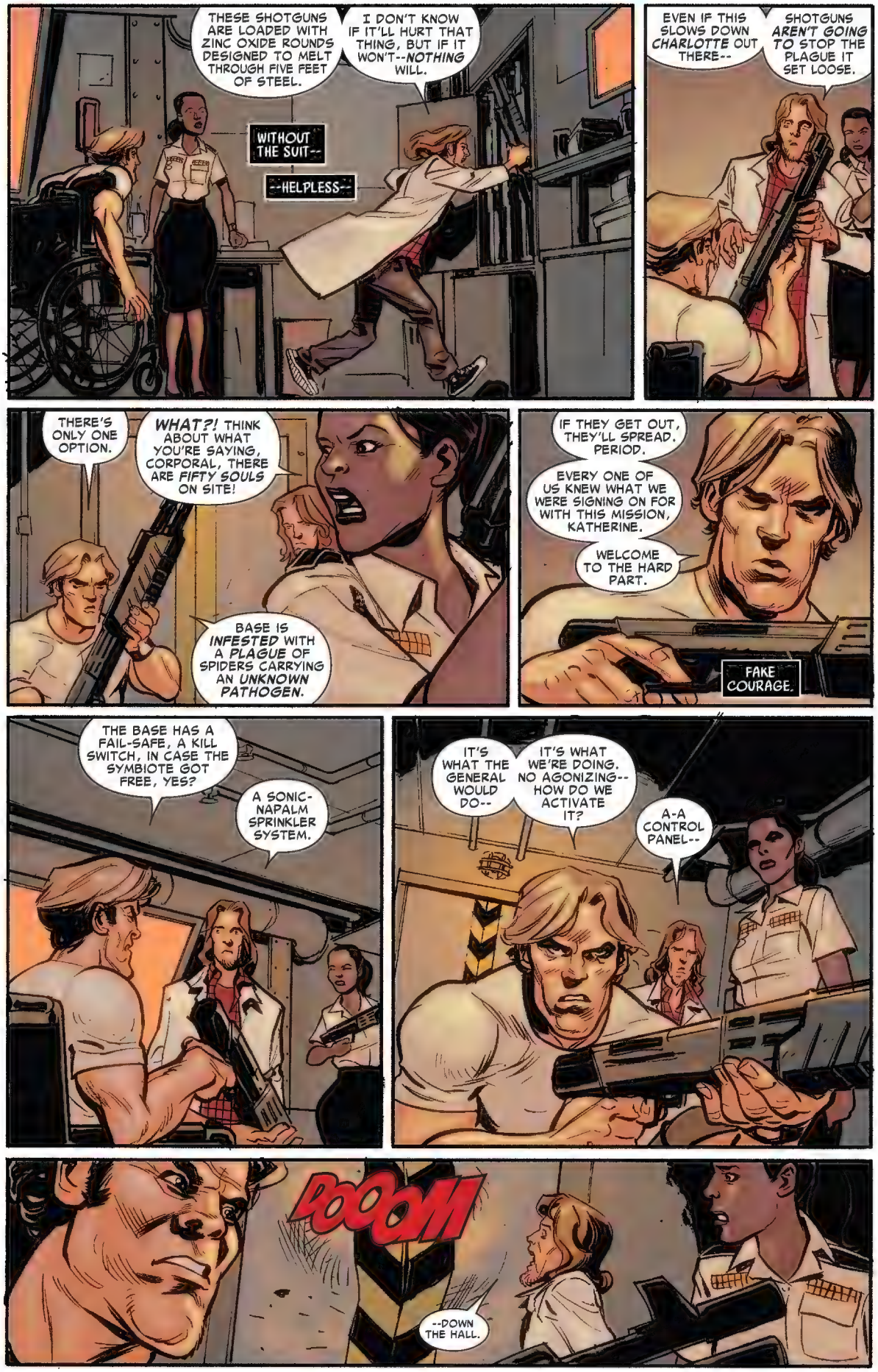
SLAMM

OPEN THE DOOR! WE HAVE TO GET THE SYMBIOTE OR--

THAT *THING* WOULD KILL US BEFORE YOU TURNED AROUND.

DOOM DOOM
C'MON-- MY LAB, THE BLAST DOORS ARE DOUBLE THICK-- HURRY!
WHERE'S SAMSON? WHERE'S MY DOG?!
GRADOOOOM
RWWOOOWRRR!!
GO-GO-GO!!
MOVE!!
I'M TRYING T--
GENERAL! WATCH--
TWOKK
AAK--
GRWWORLLL!!

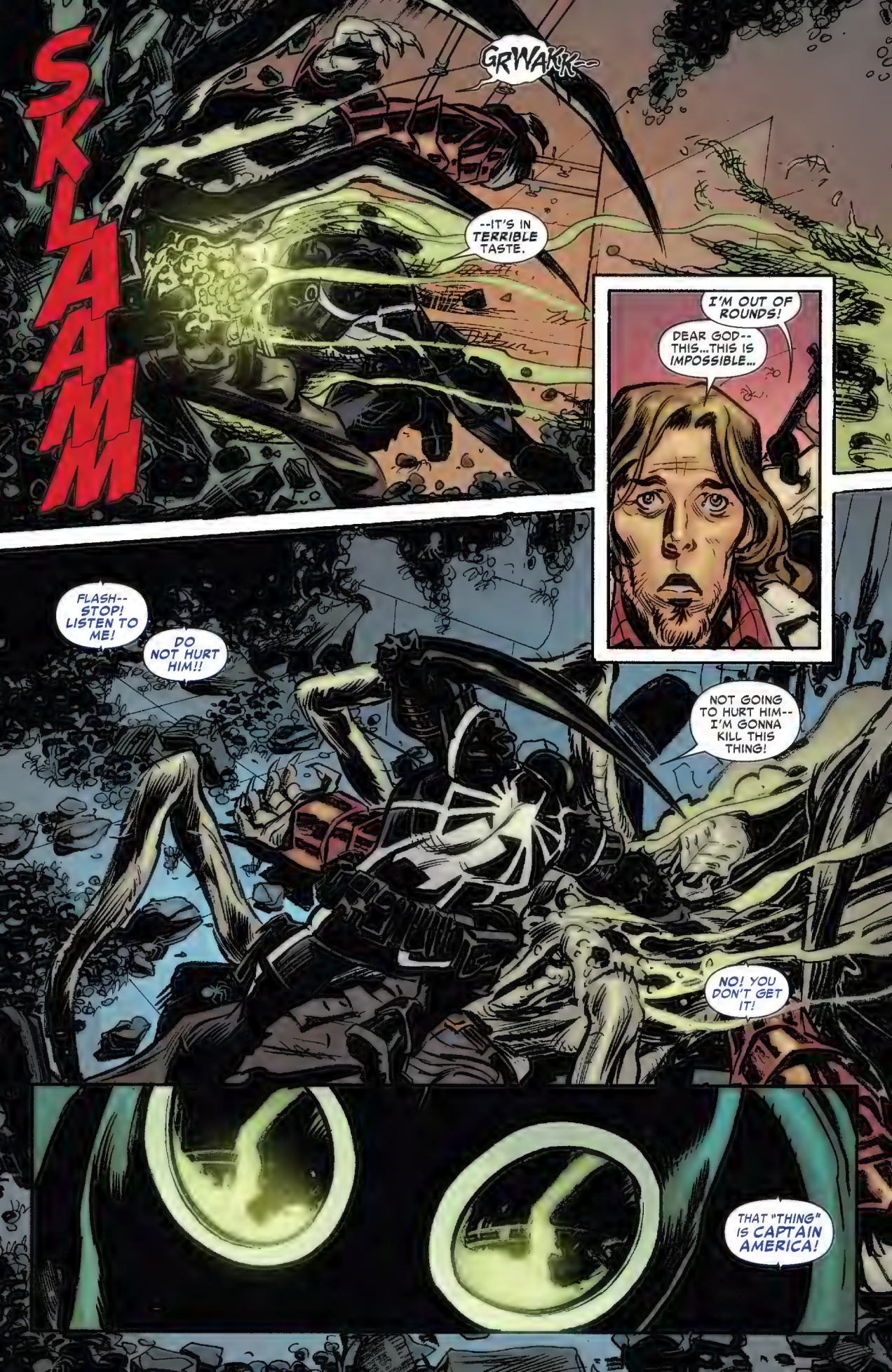
WE HAVE A BREACH! LOCK DOWN THE PERIMETER!
FULL QUARANTINE! HOSTILE SUPER-HUMAN LOOSE IN SECTION V!
W-WE SPREAD IT...
...SPREAD THE CONTAGION OUT OF THE CITY QUARANTINE...
WE ARE... BAD AT THIS JOB.
MCKENZIE, I NEED YOU TO SHUT UP. THAT SPIDER THING IS GOING TO BREAK THROUGH THAT DOOR SOON AND I NEED TO KNOW OUR OPTIONS.
OPTIONS? ONLY ONE OPTION--
"KISSING OUR ASSES GOODBYE."
ROOF! ROOF!
ARF?
GGGGRRRRRRR


THESE SHOTGUNS ARE LOADED WITH ZINC OXIDE ROUNDS DESIGNED TO MELT THROUGH FIVE FEET OF STEEL.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL HURT THAT THING, BUT IF IT WON'T--NOTHING WILL.
WITHOUT THE SUIT--
--HELPLESS--
EVEN IF THIS SLOWS DOWN CHARLOTTE OUT THERE--
SHOTGUNS AREN'T GOING TO STOP THE PLAGUE IT SET LOOSE.
THERE'S ONLY ONE OPTION.
WHAT?! THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, CORPORAL, THERE ARE FIFTY SOULS ON SITE!
BASE IS INFESTED WITH A PLAGUE OF SPIDERS CARRYING AN UNKNOWN PATHOGEN.
IF THEY GET OUT, THEY'LL SPREAD. PERIOD.
EVERY ONE OF US KNEW WHAT WE WERE SIGNING ON FOR WITH THIS MISSION, KATHERINE.
WELCOME TO THE HARD PART.
FAKE COURAGE.
THE BASE HAS A FAIL-SAFE, A KILL SWITCH, IN CASE THE SYMBIOTE GOT FREE, YES?
A SONIC-NAPALM SPRINKLER SYSTEM.
IT'S WHAT THE GENERAL WOULD DO--
IT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING. NO AGONIZING--HOW DO WE ACTIVATE IT?
A-A CONTROL PANEL--
BOOOM
--DOWN THE HALL.

ALL PERSONNEL-- IMPLEMENTING SCORCHED EARTH. GET TO THE NEAREST PANIC ROOM.
I REPEAT WE ARE IMPLEMENTING SCORCHED EARTH--
HERE IT COMES!
DOOOM
IN MY MIND I SAY SOMETHING LIKE "LET IT COME."
I SAY SOMETHING TOUGH--I REALLY SELL IT TOO.
KA-DOOOM
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SKRAKK
OOF--!
NOT LIKE THIS--
--NOT ON MY BELLY--
--NOT LIKE THIS--
GHHRWAAARR!!

GGGRRRRRRRRRR--
RAWOOOOFFF!
GHRAGH!!
YOU WILL DIE.
YELP!
ALL THE MORE REASON.
KLOOM KLOOM
GRWAAKKK--
AIEE--
HELLO--

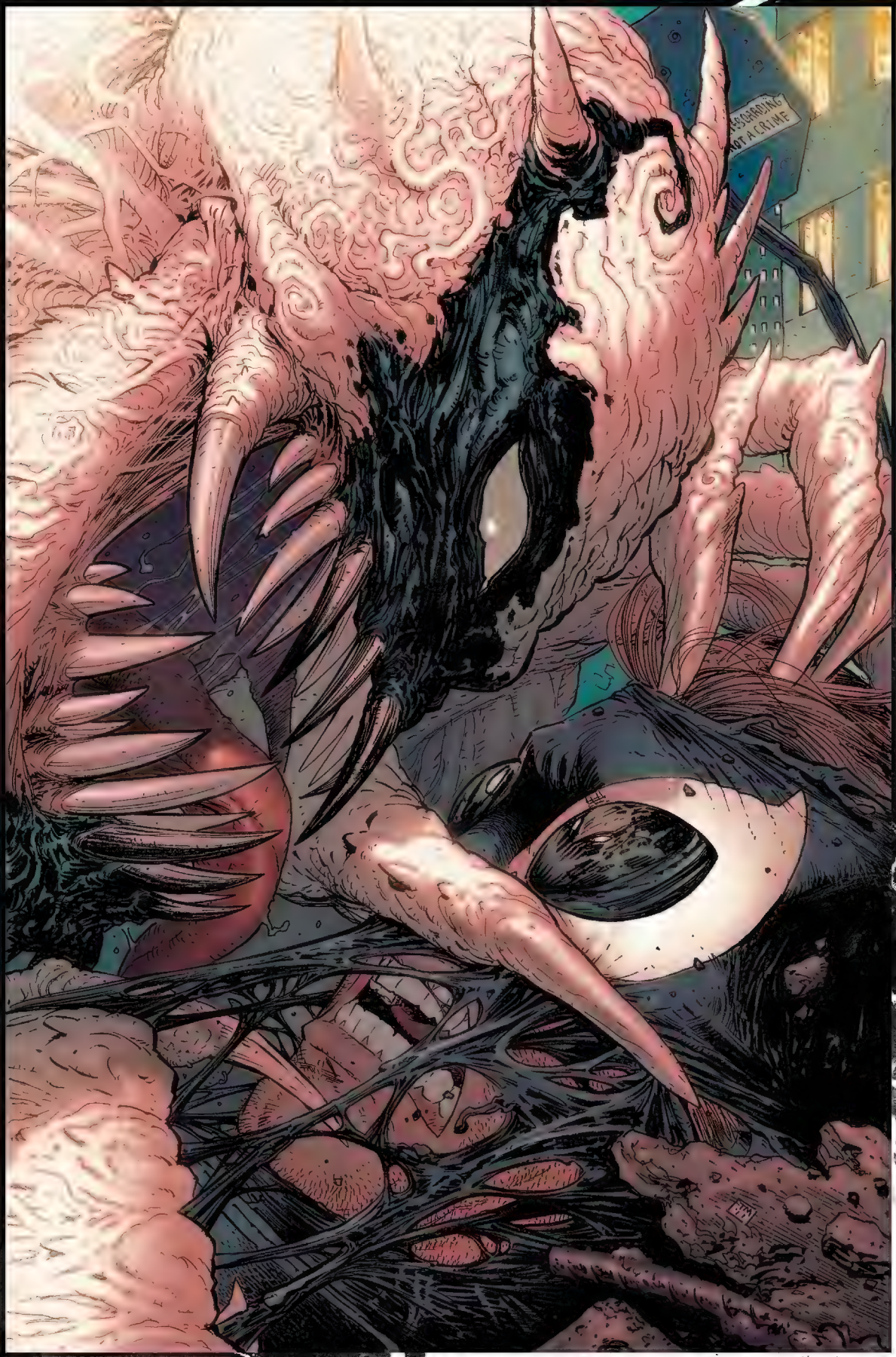
KROOOM
--IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
GET HIM OUTSIDE--
--WORRY IF THOSE SPIDERS CAN BITE THROUGH THE SYMBIOTE LATER.
GLBOOM
WE HAVE TO GET TO ONE OF THE SAFE ROOMS!
DON'T WORRY--I DISABLED THE NAPALM SPRINKLER HERE IN MY LAB FIRST DAY I TOOK THIS JOB.
KLOOM KLOOM
SHWIPP
ACID WEBS. I COULD USE THOSE.
STEAL SOME OF HIS.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
INVESTIGATING THE BLOOD SAMPLES FROM THAT GIANT BASTARD...
...MAYBE I CAN FIND SOMETHING TO GIVE FLASH A LEG UP.
IF THAT'S A LEG JOKE--
GLWIPP

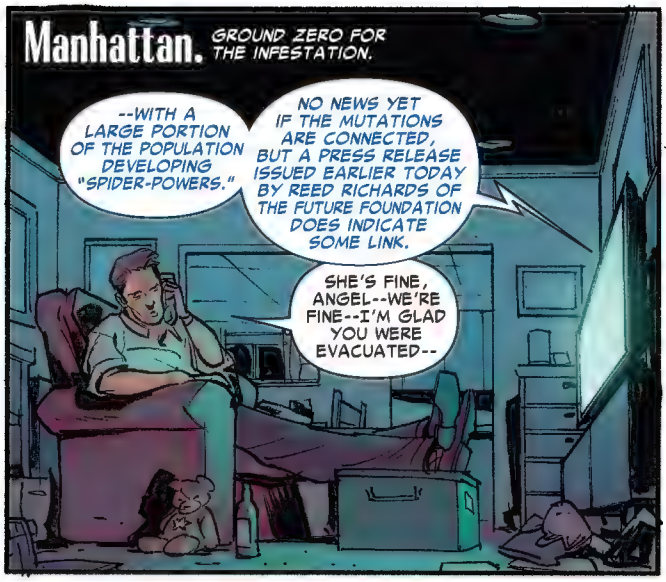

SKLAAM
GRWAKK--
--IT'S IN TERRIBLE TASTE.
I'M OUT OF ROUNDS!
DEAR GOD-- THIS...THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...
FLASH-- STOP! LISTEN TO ME!
DO NOT HURT HIM!!
NOT GOING TO HURT HIM-- I'M GONNA KILL THIS THING!
NO! YOU DON'T GET IT!
THAT "THING" IS CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WE NEED HIM ALIVE!
KWOK!
OOF
TAKES A SECOND TO REGISTER-- CONSIDER OPTIONS--
A SECOND IS ALL HE NEEDS.
ALIVE--SUCH AN EASY WORD TO SAY--
TWUDD
METAL STABS INTO MY SPINE-- THE SHOTGUN--
SLAMM
SAME PLAN--
ADDING IN THE PRESERVATION OF CAPTAIN MONSTER--
BRING THE ENTIRE WALL DOWN-- MIGHT BE COVER ENOUGH--
SMALL CHANCE EITHER OF US ENDS UP ALIVE.
KOOM
GGRRENNNGHHHH
AND SUDDENLY I WANT TO SEE DAD--

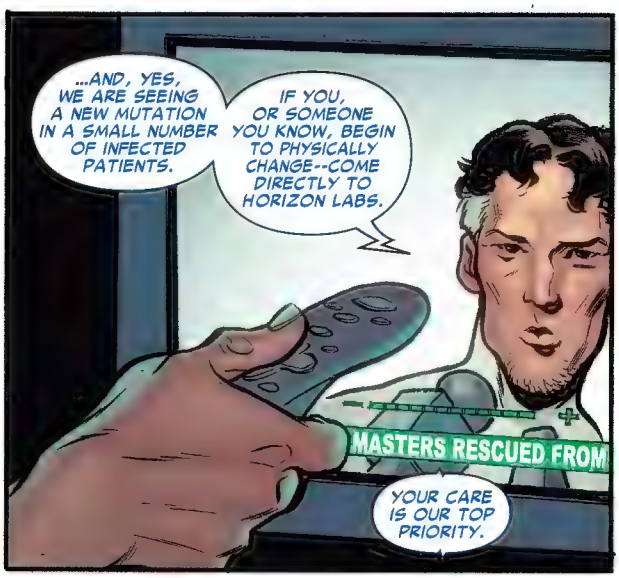
--AND SUDDENLY, I WANT TO SAY GOODBYE.
WHOOOOOMMM
FFFSSSHHHHHHHH
WOOF! WOOF!
SAMSON! STAY-- STAY!
WHINE
KROOM
WOOF! WOOF!
GOOD BOY.

Later...
STEVE ROGERS...HOW THE HELL DID THEY GET YOU, SON?
IF THE MONSTERS WE'RE DEALING WITH CAN DO THIS TO CAPTAIN AMERICA...
THOMPSON, YOU'RE GOING TO USE YOUR SYMBIOTE TO MIMIC HIS FORM, INFILTRATE ENEMY COMMAND, AND FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.
WHEN I GIVE THE WORD--SNAP THE NECK OF WHATEVER SON OF A BITCH DID THIS.
CLEAR.
YOU READY TO GO BACK IN, SON?
SIR, YES, SIR.
DUTY TAKES PRIORITY.
PUSH THE REST TO THE SIDE...
...AND TRY AND FORGET ABOUT IT.
THIS IS FLASH, NOT AVAILABLE TO COME TO THE PHONE, LEAVE A MESSAGE-- BEEEEP.
PLEASE, FLASH THOMPSON...
BE HERE FOR THIS.
IT'S IMPORTANT.
BE HERE.


TRESPASSING
NOT A CRIME


Manhattan. GROUND ZERO FOR THE INFESTATION.
--WITH A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION DEVELOPING "SPIDER-POWERS."
NO NEWS YET IF THE MUTATIONS ARE CONNECTED, BUT A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED EARLIER TODAY BY REED RICHARDS OF THE FUTURE FOUNDATION DOES INDICATE SOME LINK.
SHE'S FINE, ANGEL--WE'RE FINE--I'M GLAD YOU WERE EVACUATED--

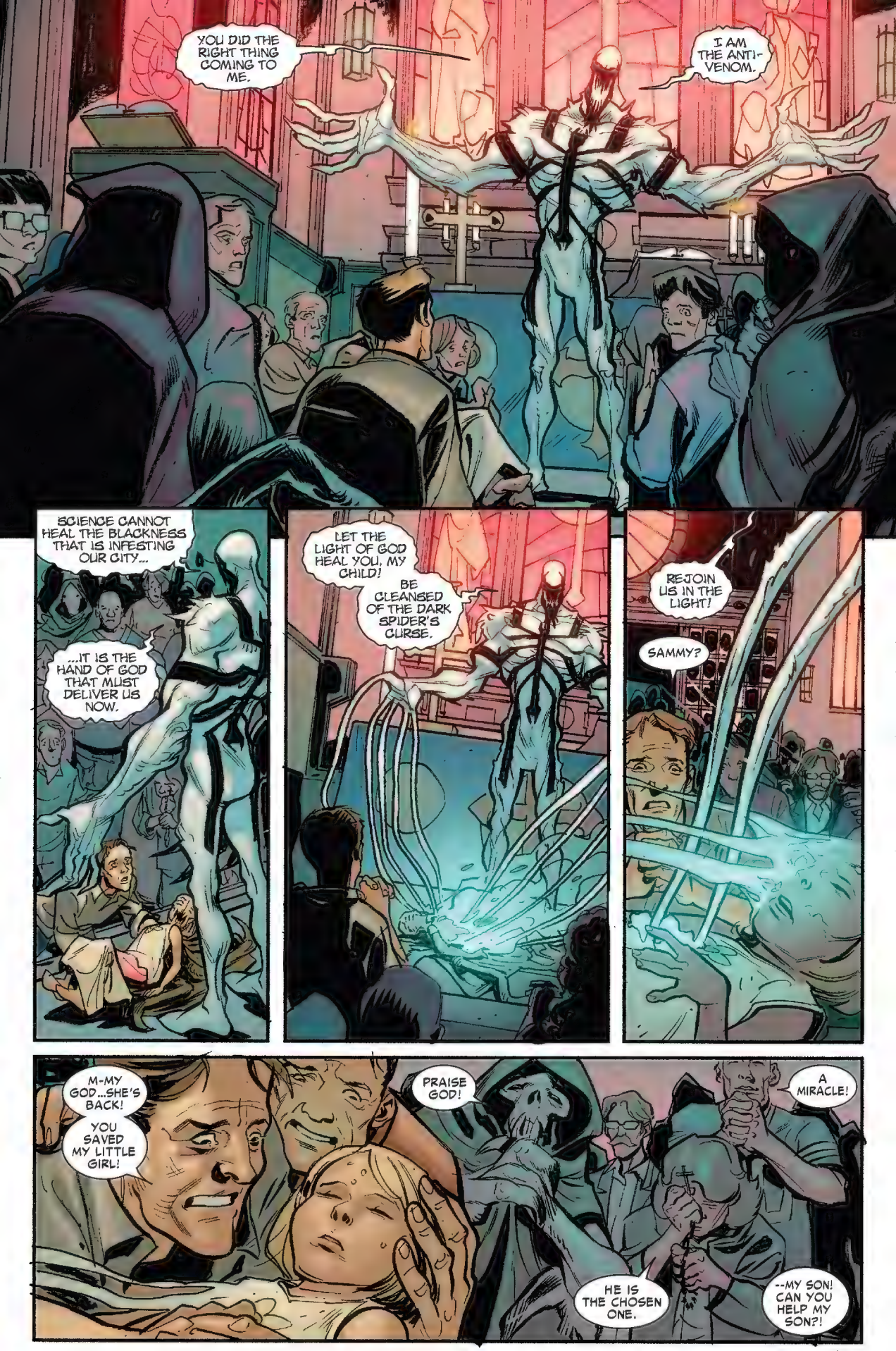
NO--NO NEED FOR BOTH OF US TO SUFFER THROUGH THIS CRAZINESS.
YES-- SAMANTHA WAS BITTEN. IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
EGGHEADS'RE WORKING ON A CURE.
YEAH. I'M WATCHING IT NOW--HOLD ON A SEC...

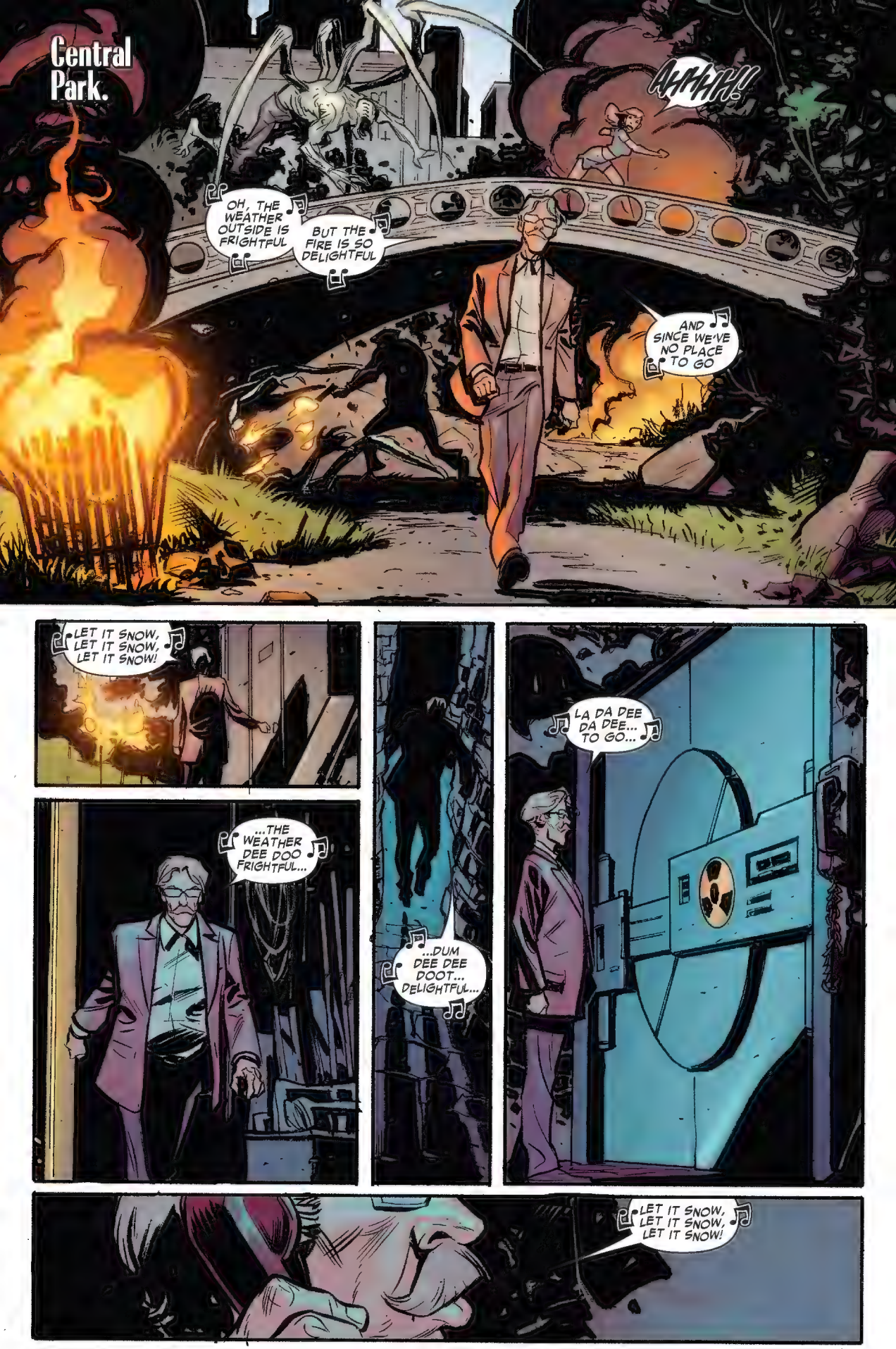

...AND, YES, WE ARE SEEING A NEW MUTATION IN A SMALL NUMBER OF INFECTED PATIENTS.
IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, BEGIN TO PHYSICALLY CHANGE--COME DIRECTLY TO HORIZON LABS.
MASTERS RESCUED FROM
YOUR CARE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY.

KRASH
DR. RICHARDS, WHAT ABOUT THE REPORTS WE'RE HEARING THAT A MAN INSIDE OUR LADY OF SAINTS CHURCH IS OFFERING TO CURE THE INFECTED?

S-SAMANTHA?! HONEY?
PLEASE, IF MUTATIONS SET IN, COME DIRECTLY TO HORIZON LABS.
WHILE PRAYER IS A WONDERFUL SOLACE...

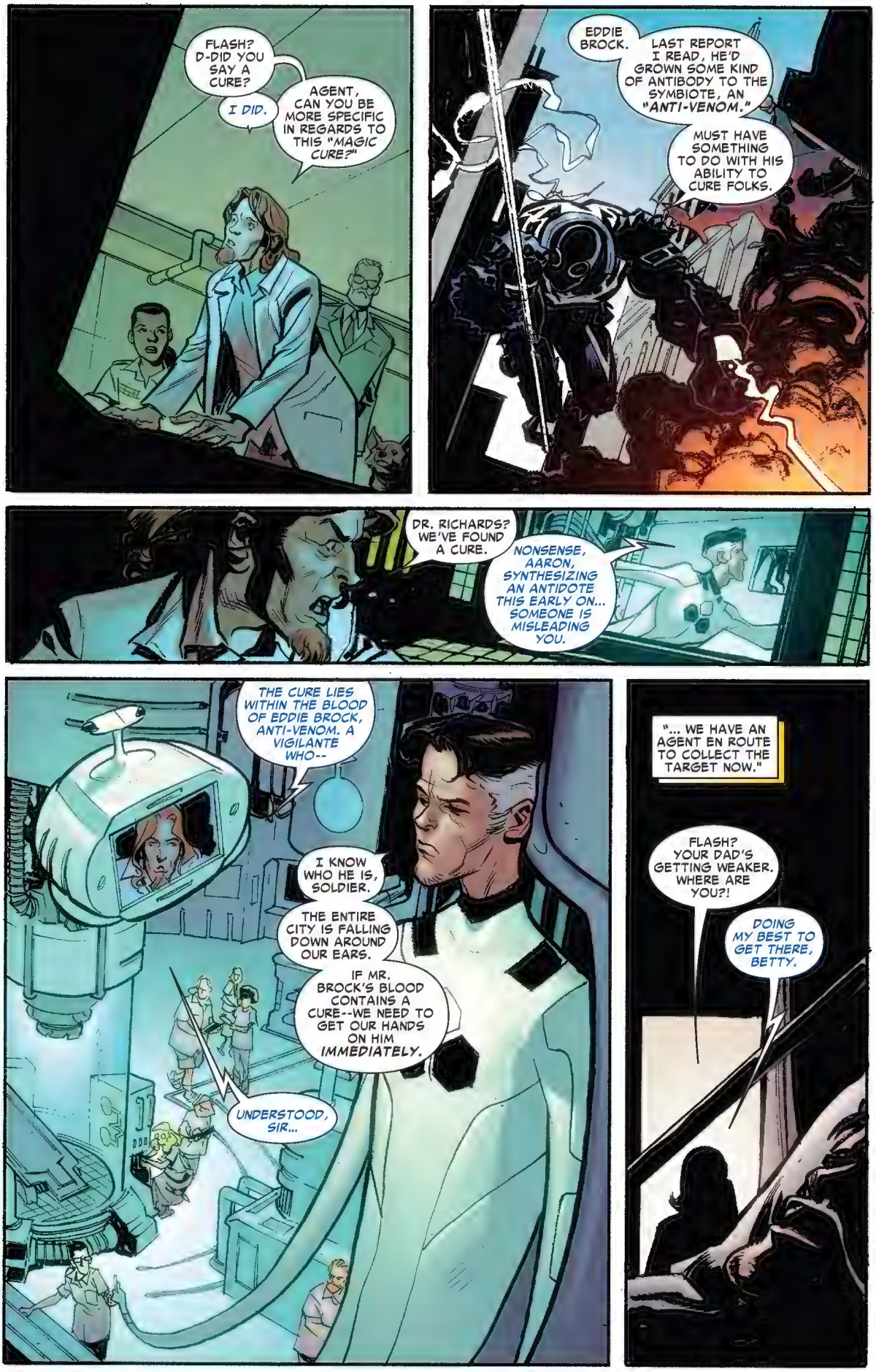
...THIS IS A TIME FOR SCIENCE.
S...SAM?
OUR LADY OF SAINTS-- WHERE IS IT?!
FIVE BLOCKS SOUTH--
EXCUSE ME!
MOVE!
PLEASE!
EXCUSE ME, SIR! PLEASE--
PLEASE CAN YOU HELP MY DAUGHTER?!

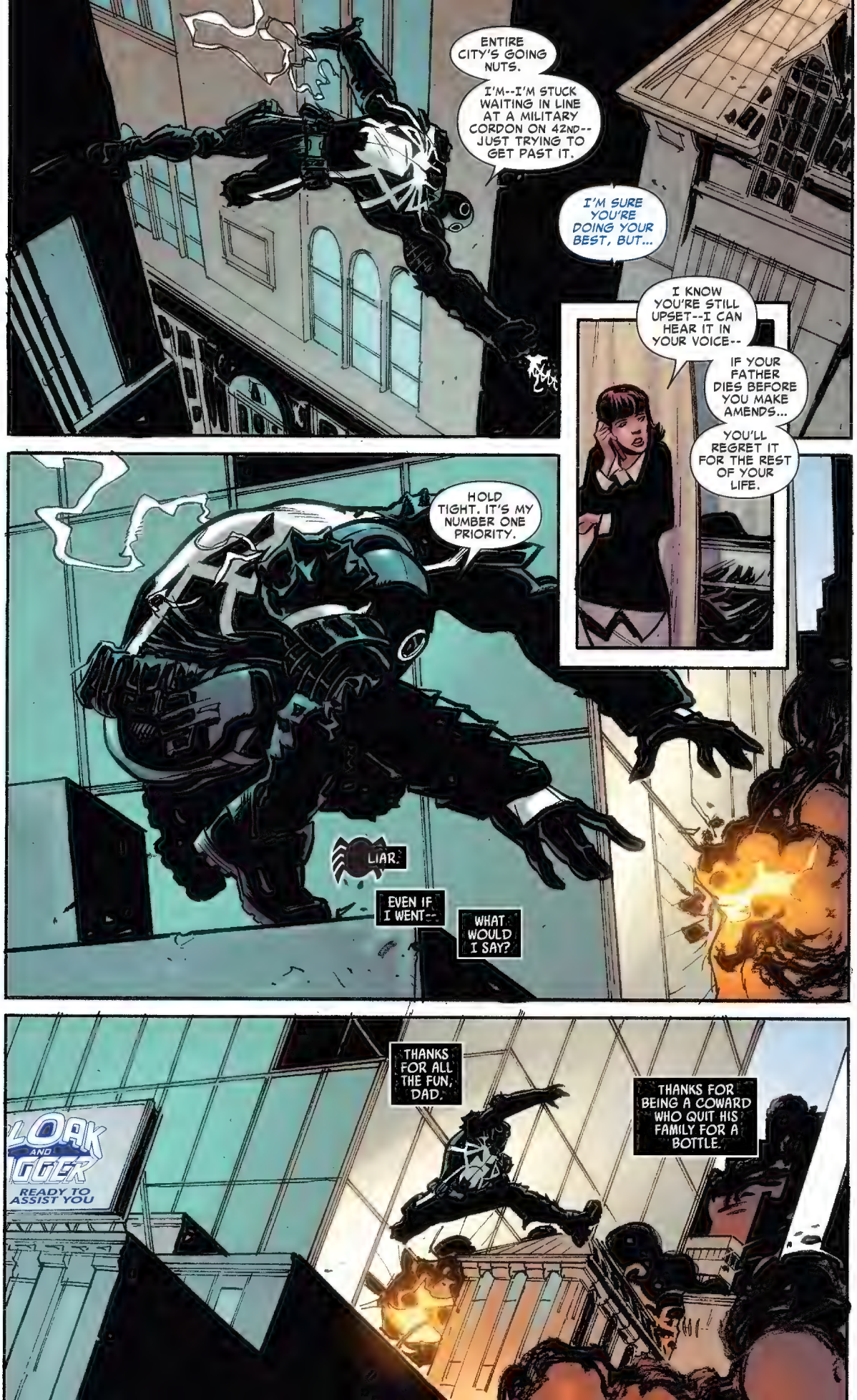

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING COMING TO ME.
I AM THE ANTI-VENOM.
SCIENCE CANNOT HEAL THE BLACKNESS THAT IS INFESTING OUR CITY...
...IT IS THE HAND OF GOD THAT MUST DELIVER US NOW.
LET THE LIGHT OF GOD HEAL YOU, MY CHILD!
BE CLEANSED OF THE DARK SPIDER'S CURSE.
REJOIN US IN THE LIGHT!
SAMMY?
M-MY GOD...SHE'S BACK!
YOU SAVED MY LITTLE GIRL!
PRAISE GOD!
A MIRACLE!
HE IS THE CHOSEN ONE.
--MY SON! CAN YOU HELP MY SON?!

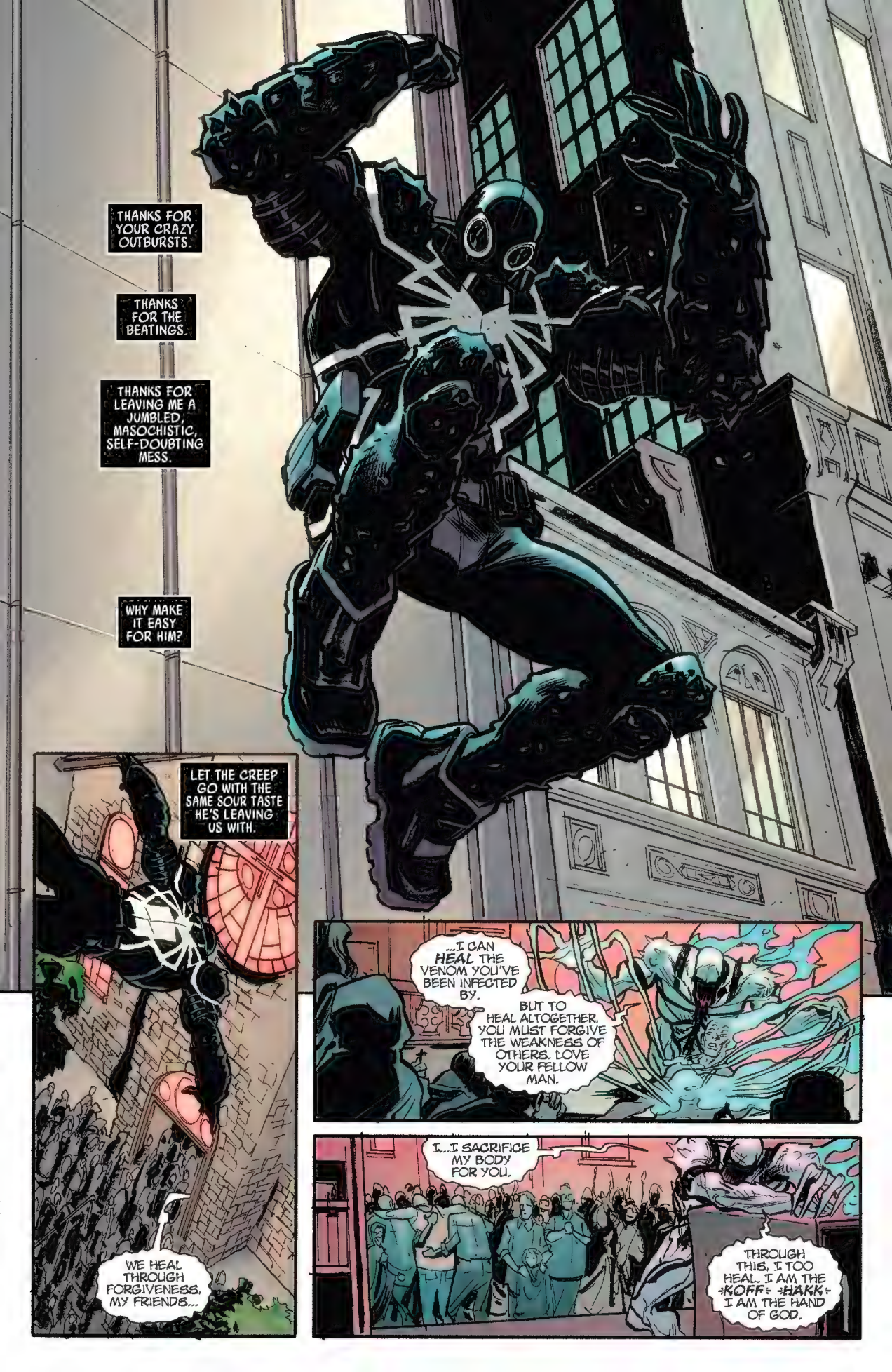

Central Park.
AHHH!
OH, THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL
BUT THE FIRE IS SO DELIGHTFUL
AND SINCE WE'VE NO PLACE TO GO
LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!
...THE WEATHER DEE DOO FRIGHTFUL...
...DUM DEE DEE DOOT... DELIGHTFUL...
LA DA DEE DA DEE... TO GO...
LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW!

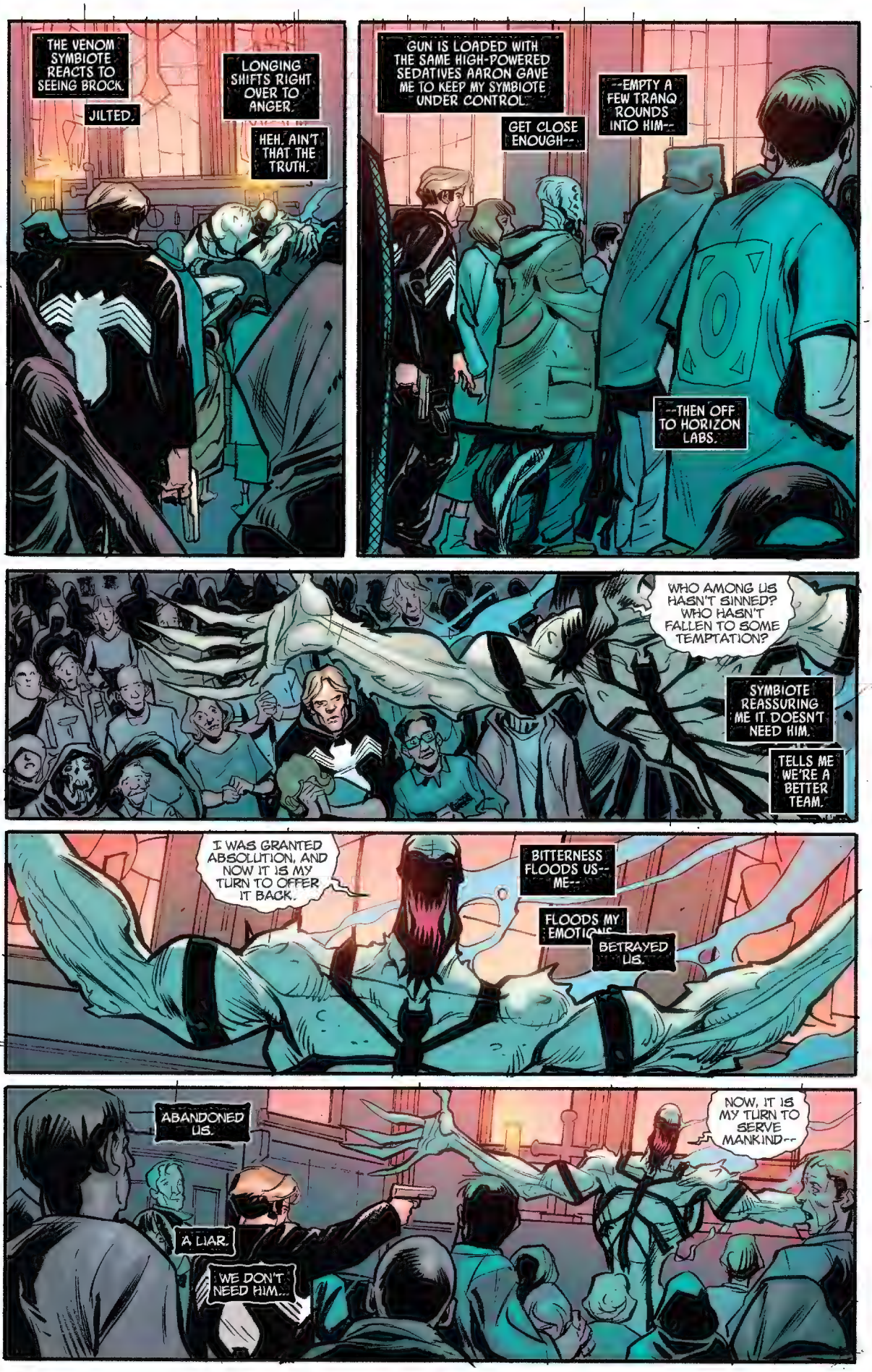
IT'S A MADHOUSE OUT THERE, MILES.
COME INSIDE, MILES.
WE'RE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVES.
MY QUEEN, I HAVE NEWS.
DON'T TELL ME "YOU HAVE NEWS"--JUST TELL ME THE NEWS.
EDWARD BROCK, CURRENT ALIAS ANTI-VENOM...
...HE'S CURING PEOPLE.
I WITNESSED IT.

THEN SOMEONE SHOULD GO KILL HIM, YES?
PLEASE?
PRETTY PLEASE, SOMEONE STEP FORWARD TO SERVE THEIR QUEEN BEFORE SHE BECOMES EXASPERATED--
I WILL.
WHERE IZZZ HE?
OUR LADY OF SAINTS CHURCH.
THANK YOU, SPIDER-KING.
AND MILES..
BLAMM
...NO MORE BAD NEWS, PLEASE?
KATHERINE, ARE YOU ON THE LINE?
I AM, AGENT VENOM. BUT I'M IN THE DARK--CAN'T PICK ANYTHING UP WHEN YOU'RE IN THAT BUNKER.
SOMEONE HAS A CURE. THE QUEEN WANTS ME TO GO KILL HIM.
ORDERS?


FLASH? D-DID YOU SAY A CURE?
I DID.
AGENT, CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC IN REGARDS TO THIS "MAGIC CURE?"
EDDIE BROCK.
LAST REPORT I READ, HE'D GROWN SOME KIND OF ANTIBODY TO THE SYMBIOTE, AN "ANTI-VENOM."
MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS ABILITY TO CURE FOLKS.
DR. RICHARDS? WE'VE FOUND A CURE.
NONSENSE, AARON, SYNTHESIZING AN ANTIDOTE THIS EARLY ON... SOMEONE IS MISLEADING YOU.
THE CURE LIES WITHIN THE BLOOD OF EDDIE BROCK, ANTI-VENOM. A VIGILANTE WHO--
I KNOW WHO HE IS, SOLDIER.
THE ENTIRE CITY IS FALLING DOWN AROUND OUR EARS.
IF MR. BROCK'S BLOOD CONTAINS A CURE--WE NEED TO GET OUR HANDS ON HIM IMMEDIATELY.
UNDERSTOOD, SIR...
"... WE HAVE AN AGENT EN ROUTE TO COLLECT THE TARGET NOW."
FLASH? YOUR DAD'S GETTING WEAKER. WHERE ARE YOU?!
DOING MY BEST TO GET THERE, BETTY.


ENTIRE CITY'S GOING NUTS.
I'M--I'M STUCK WAITING IN LINE AT A MILITARY CORDON ON 42ND-- JUST TRYING TO GET PAST IT.
I'M SURE YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST, BUT...
I KNOW YOU'RE STILL UPSET--I CAN HEAR IT IN YOUR VOICE--
IF YOUR FATHER DIES BEFORE YOU MAKE AMENDS...
YOU'LL REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
HOLD TIGHT. IT'S MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.
LIAR.
EVEN IF I WENT--
WHAT WOULD I SAY?
THANKS FOR ALL THE FUN, DAD.
THANKS FOR BEING A COWARD WHO QUIT HIS FAMILY FOR A BOTTLE.
READY TO ASSIST YOU


THANKS FOR YOUR CRAZY OUTBURSTS.
THANKS FOR THE BEATINGS.
THANKS FOR LEAVING ME A JUMBLED, MASOCHISTIC, SELF-DOUBTING MESS.
WHY MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM?
LET THE CREEP GO WITH THE SAME SOUR TASTE HE'S LEAVING US WITH.
WE HEAL THROUGH FORGIVENESS, MY FRIENDS...
...I CAN HEAL THE VENOM YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED BY.
BUT TO HEAL ALTOGETHER, YOU MUST FORGIVE THE WEAKNESS OF OTHERS. LOVE YOUR FELLOW MAN.
I...I SACRIFICE MY BODY FOR YOU.
THROUGH THIS, I TOO HEAL. I AM THE +KOFF+ +HAKK+ I AM THE HAND OF GOD.

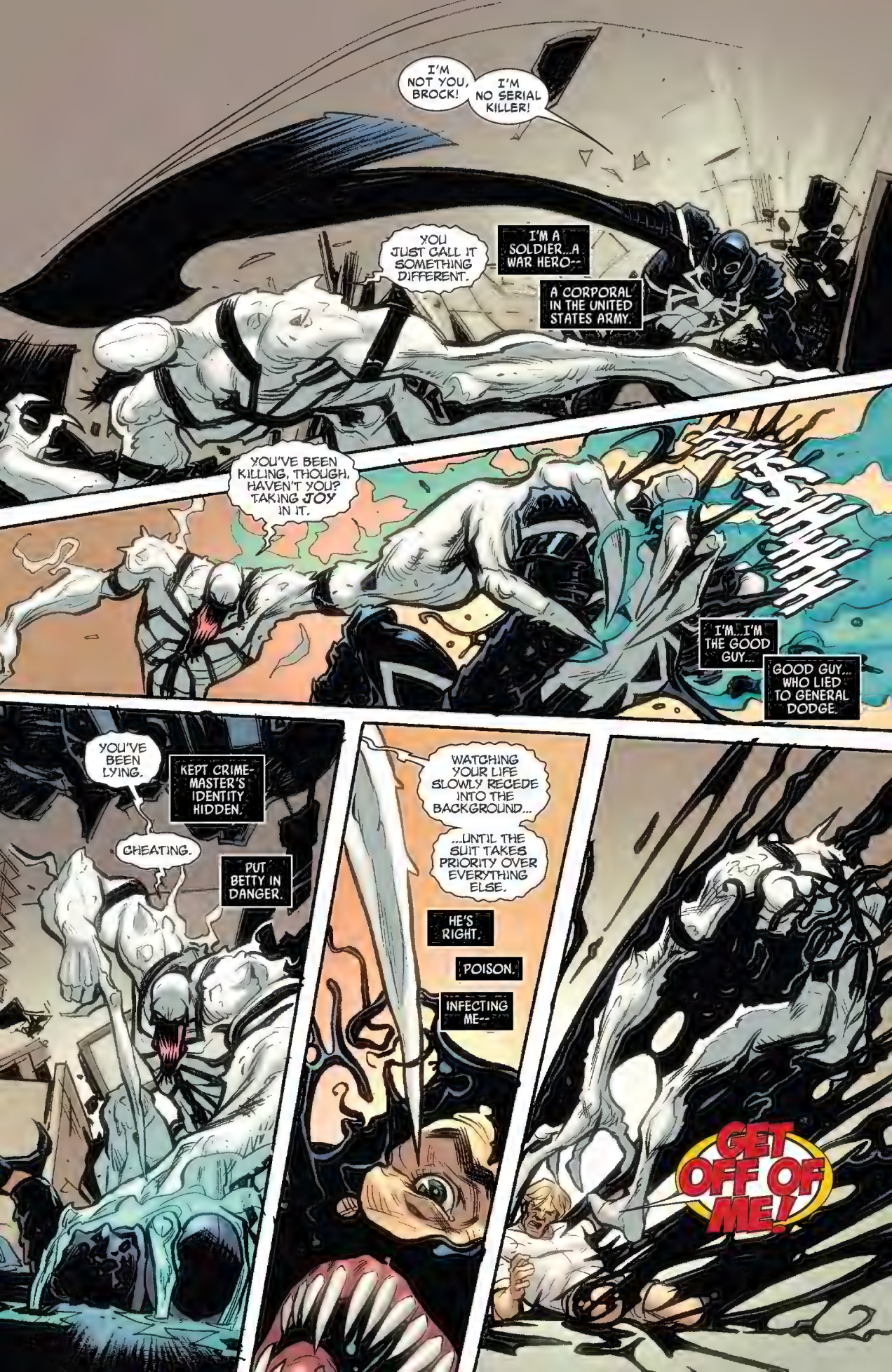

THE VENOM SYMBIOTE REACTS TO SEEING BROCK.
JILTED.
LONGING SHIFTS RIGHT OVER TO ANGER.
HEH. AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH.
GUN IS LOADED WITH THE SAME HIGH-POWERED SEDATIVES AARON GAVE ME TO KEEP MY SYMBIOTE UNDER CONTROL.
GET CLOSE ENOUGH--
--EMPTY A FEW TRANQ ROUNDS INTO HIM--
--THEN OFF TO HORIZON LABS.
WHO AMONG US HASN'T SINNED? WHO HASN'T FALLEN TO SOME TEMPTATION?
SYMBIOTE REASSURING ME IT DOESN'T NEED HIM.
TELLS ME WE'RE A BETTER TEAM.
I WAS GRANTED ABSOLUTION, AND NOW IT IS MY TURN TO OFFER IT BACK.
BITTERNESS FLOODS US-- ME--
FLOODS MY EMOTIONS
BETRAYED US.
ABANDONED US.
A LIAR.
WE DON'T NEED HIM...
NOW, IT IS MY TURN TO SERVE MANKIND--

--TO STAVE OFF THE DARKNESS HIDING IN OUR MIDST!
FFSHHHH
GHRAGHH!!
YOU?!
YOU DARE COME HERE?!
I WILL NOT BE PULLED BACK DOWN! I AM REBORN IN THE LIGHT!
FFSHHHH
GAA--!
KROOOM
YYOUU BBELLONG IN THE DDARRK.
KRESH

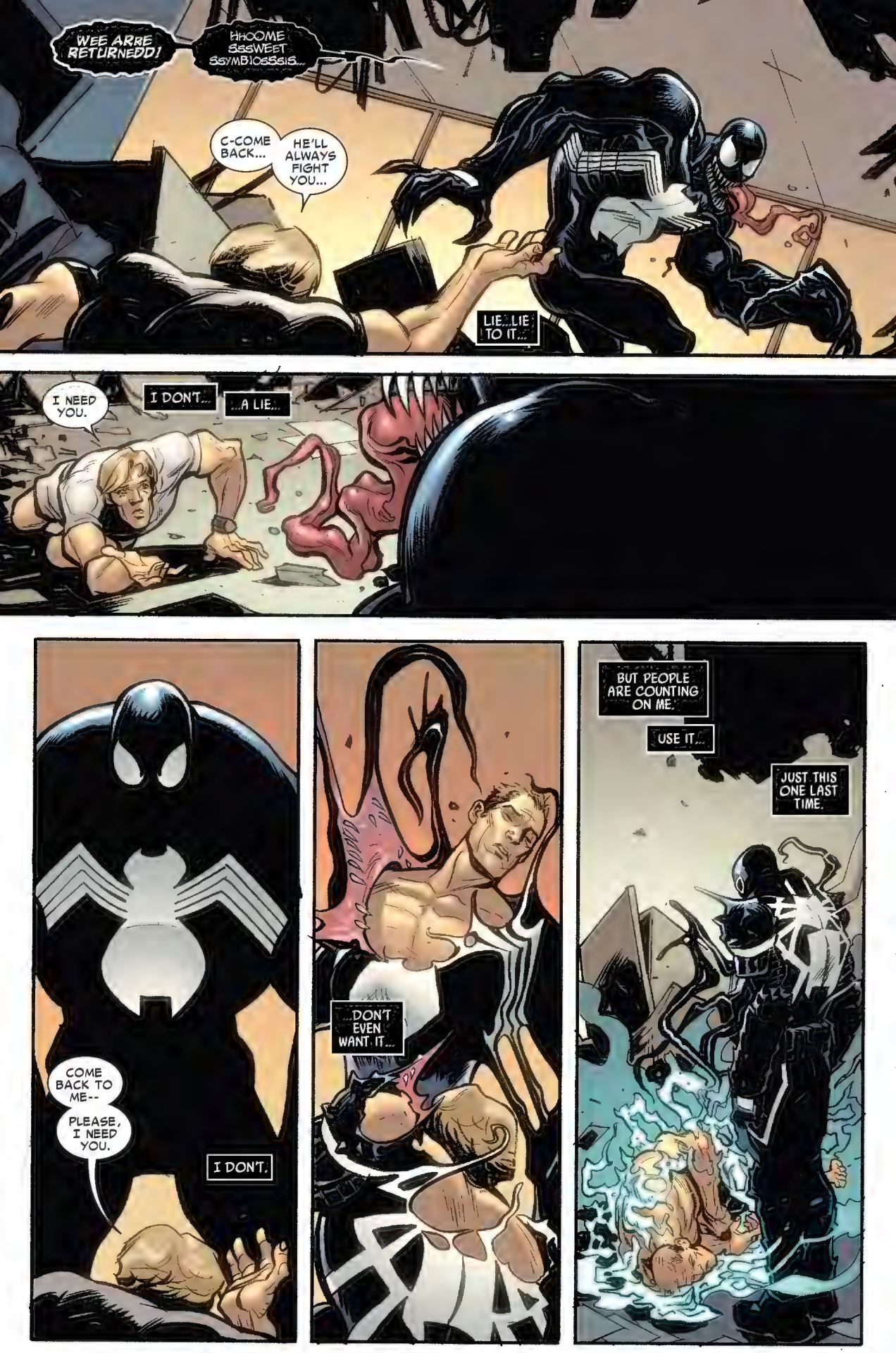
THMP
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT THING'S DOING TO YOU?
YOU CAN'T OR YOU'D NEVER HAVE ALLOWED IT TO BOND TO YOU.
AND MAKE NO MISTAKE-- IT CHOSE YOU.
IT WILL DRINK YOUR SOUL, LEAVING BEHIND ONLY CANCEROUS EXCREMENT.
IT'S NOT A BLACK MONSTER FROM SPACE--
IT'S A BLACK DEMON SENT FROM HELL.
GHRAGHAH--!!
YOU ARE AN ADDICT--A DAMAGED AND WOUNDED ANIMAL-- YOU HAVE A SICKNESS.
I AM THE CURE!
GHRAGHAH!!

DO NOT STRUGGLE-- YOU WERE DRAWN TO ME BY THE LIGHT OF GOD!
HEAL THROUGH MY FORGIVENESS!
YERAGH--!
GET OFF OF USS!!
RA-DROOOOM
KRASH
WHO IS IT YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGHT?
YOU, BROCK.
POOR MISGUIDED LAMB...
THWIP
...I KNOW THE PAIN YOU SUFFER.

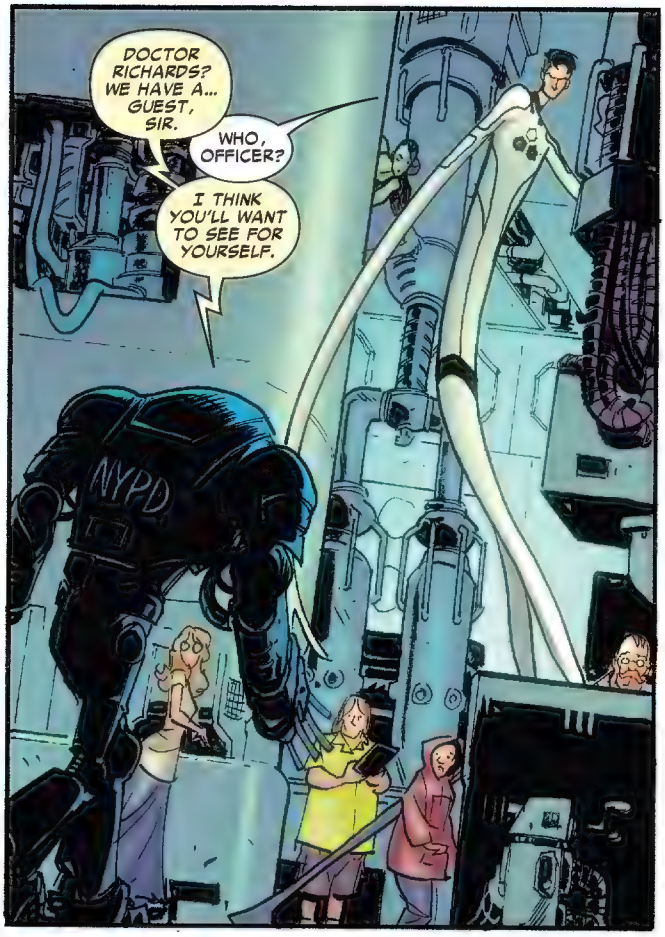
YOU THINK YOU'RE MAKING CHOICES OF FREE WILL--
YOU'RE NOT.
SHUT UP!
EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE SINCE PUTTING ON THAT SUIT HAS BEEN THE SYMBIOTE'S DECISION.
EVERYTHING.
WOOOSH
YOU MISS IT WHEN IT'S GONE.
COUNTING THE HOURS TO YOUR NEXT FIX.
HE'S WRONG.
WE'RE DIFFERENT...
WE'RE IN CONTROL.
KRAKOOM
YOU SPEND HOURS THINKING ABOUT WHEN YOU'LL GET IT NEXT.
WE'RE IN CONTROL.


I'M NOT YOU, BROCK!
I'M NO SERIAL KILLER!
YOU JUST CALL IT SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
I'M A SOLDIER...A WAR HERO--
A CORPORAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.
YOU'VE BEEN KILLING, THOUGH, HAVEN'T YOU? TAKING JOY IN IT.
FFSHHH
I'M...I'M THE GOOD GUY...
GOOD GUY... WHO LIED TO GENERAL DODGE.
YOU'VE BEEN LYING.
KEPT CRIME-MASTER'S IDENTITY HIDDEN.
CHEATING.
PUT BETTY IN DANGER.
WATCHING YOUR LIFE SLOWLY RECEDE INTO THE BACKGROUND...
...UNTIL THE SUIT TAKES PRIORITY OVER EVERYTHING ELSE.
HE'S RIGHT.
POISON.
INFECTING ME--
GET OFF OF ME!

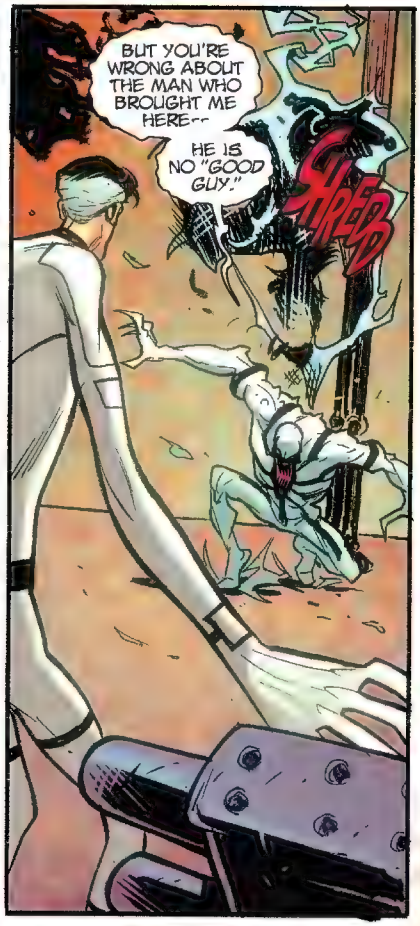
NO! NOT AGAIN!
HE'S WEAK FROM RELEASING ALL HIS ANTIBODIES--
WEAK FROM HELPING PEOPLE--
THE SYMBIOTE IS BONDING WITH HIM--
LEAVING ME--
GOOD. LET IT GO--GET RID OF IT--
THE DEMON--GET IT OFF!
NOT AGAIN!
FORGETTING WHY I'M HERE--
IF IT BONDS WITH EDDIE, IT'LL WIPE OUT HIS ANTIBODIES--
--IT'LL WIPE OUT THIS CITY'S LAST CHANCE AT A CURE!
NO! PLEASE-- GOD!


WEE ARRE RETURNEDD!
HHOOME SSSWEET SSYMBIOSSIS...
C-COME BACK...
HE'LL ALWAYS FIGHT YOU...
LIE...LIE TO IT...
I NEED YOU.
I DON'T...
...A LIE...
COME BACK TO ME--
PLEASE, I NEED YOU.
I DON'T.
...DON'T EVEN WANT IT...
BUT PEOPLE ARE COUNTING ON ME.
USE IT...
JUST THIS ONE LAST TIME.

Horizon Labs.
WOULD YOU LIKE THE OMNIONNE DOCTOR RICHARDS?
BLAST!
IF I CAN'T REGULATE THE MOLECULAR RHYTHMS OF THIS SYNTHETIC HISTAMINE THERE'S NO POINT TO OMNIONNE!
+SIGH+ FORGIVE MY TEMPER, IT ISN'T OFTEN I'M OUT-MANEUVERED BY A MANMADE COMPOUND.


DOCTOR RICHARDS? WE HAVE A... GUEST, SIR.
WHO, OFFICER?
I THINK YOU'LL WANT TO SEE FOR YOURSELF.
NYPD

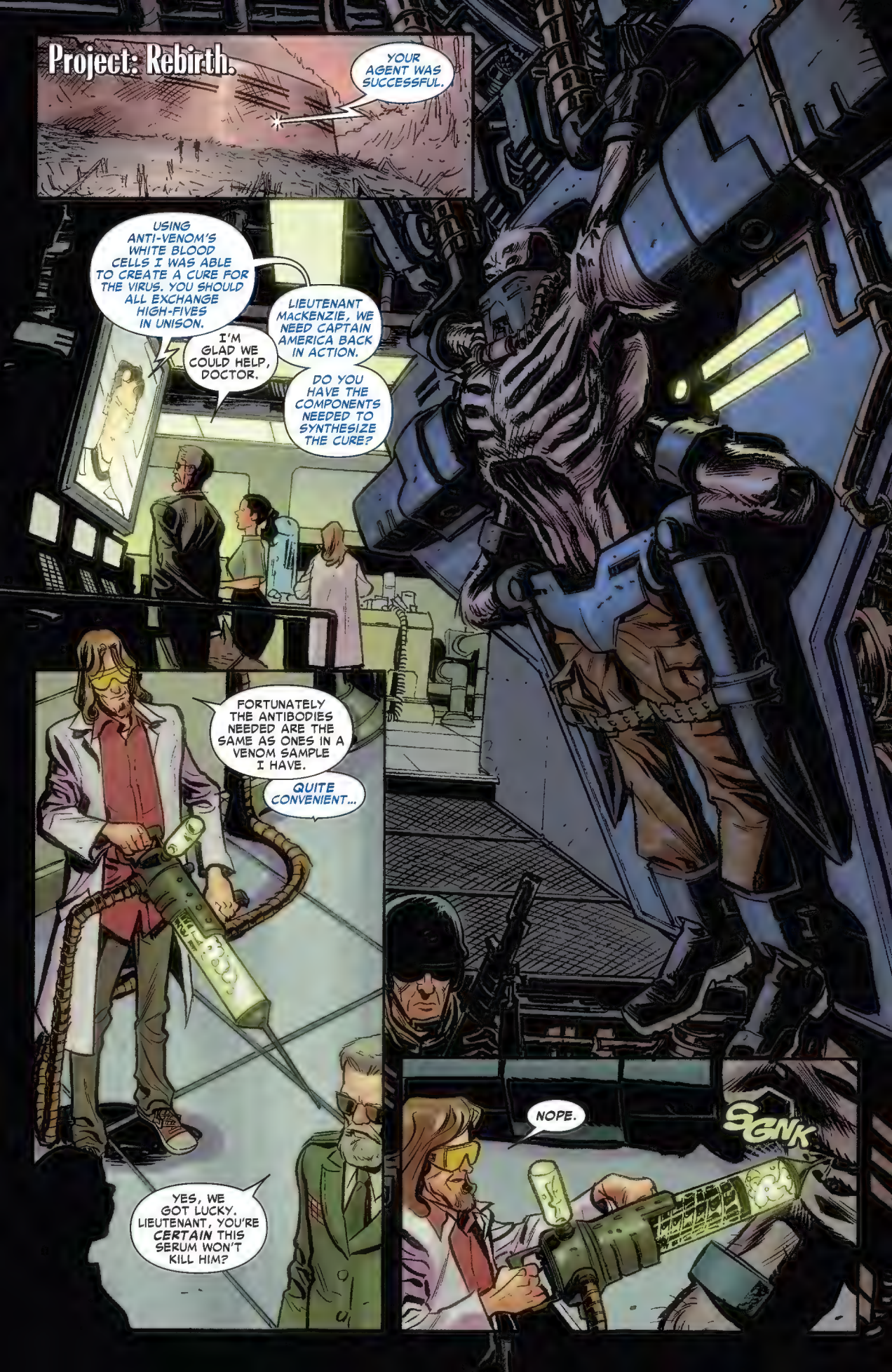
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GOOD GUYS GOT YOU, BROCK.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME CURE THIS CITY, LIKE IT OR NOT.
I'M GLAD TO HELP.


BUT YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THE MAN WHO BROUGHT ME HERE--
HE IS NO "GOOD GUY."
SHREDD

THEN WHY DO I FIND YOU WEBBED UP HERE? WHY DIDN'T YOU COME WILLINGLY IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HE NEVER ASKED ME TO. DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHAT HE WANTED.
VENOM JUST SHOWED UP...

"...AND TRIED TO KILL ME."
FLASH...
E-EUGENE...?
I'M HERE, DAD.
B-BEEN THINKING... ABOUT YOU...
WAS REMEMBERING WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BOY...
Y-YOU REMEMBER... FRIDAYS...WHEN YOU WERE SEVEN OR EIGHT...
THE DEN... LISTENING TO OLD JAZZ RECORDS...JUST YOU AND ME.
I REMEMBER, DAD.
JUST ME AN' MY BOY EUGENE, WHO I LOVED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON THIS EARTH...
MY BOY...
WHO I ALWAYS LET DOWN.

I'M SORRY, SON.
YOUR SISTER...YOUR MOTHER...YOU TELL 'EM I'M SORRY...I LOVE 'EM.
TELL 'EM HOW SORRY...
YOU DID THE VERY BEST YOU COULD.
THE BAD WAS...
...BAD--IT CASTS A SHADOW ON THE REST--BUT--I LOVE YOU, DAD.
I LOVE YOU AND I'LL TRY MY DAMNEST TO ONLY REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES, OKAY?
I'LL REMEMBER LISTENING TO RECORDS. YOU AND ME.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...AND YOU DID A LOT GOOD.
YOU HEAR ME?
I WOULDN'T TRADE YOU FOR ANY OTHER FATHER.


Project: Rebirth.
YOUR AGENT WAS SUCCESSFUL.
USING ANTI-VENOM'S WHITE BLOOD CELLS I WAS ABLE TO CREATE A CURE FOR THE VIRUS. YOU SHOULD ALL EXCHANGE HIGH-FIVES IN UNISON.
I'M GLAD WE COULD HELP, DOCTOR.
LIEUTENANT MACKENZIE, WE NEED CAPTAIN AMERICA BACK IN ACTION.
DO YOU HAVE THE COMPONENTS NEEDED TO SYNTHESIZE THE CURE?
FORTUNATELY THE ANTIBODIES NEEDED ARE THE SAME AS ONES IN A VENOM SAMPLE I HAVE.
QUITE CONVENIENT...
YES, WE GOT LUCKY. LIEUTENANT, YOU'RE CERTAIN THIS SERUM WON'T KILL HIM?
NOPE.
SGNK

Manhattan.
GENCY
HEY.
YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING IN HOURS.
I KNOW HOW I FELT WHEN I LOST MY MOM.
IT WIPES YOU OUT.
BUT, FLASH--WE'RE STRANDED IN A WAR ZONE.
I NEED YOU TO BE *HERE*.
OKAY.
I'M OKAY.
HERE, BEFORE I FORGET...
WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR YOU, YOUR FATHER WROTE THIS...IN CASE YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT.
EUGEN

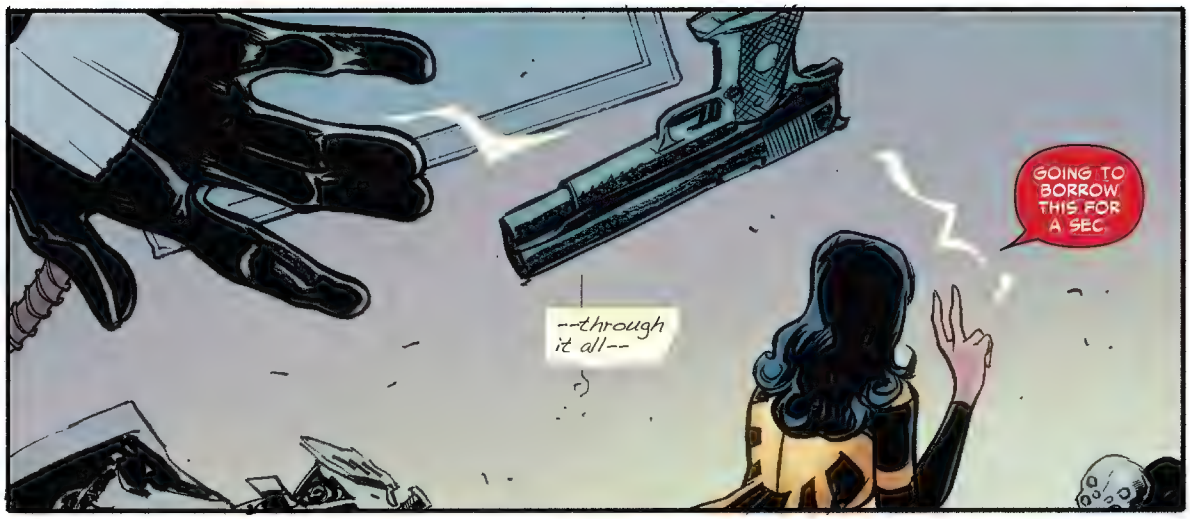
AGENT VENOM, YOU HAVE NEW ORDERS.
FLASH?
WHAT IS IT?
JUST...NEED A MINUTE.
YOU HAVE CLEARANCE TO TERMINATE TARGET, AGENT VENOM.
ELIMINATE THE QUEEN.
DO YOU COPY?
I--
I HAVE TO GO.
WHAT?
THE CITY IS INFESTED.
IF THERE'RE STILL EVACUATION POINTS THERE WON'T BE FOR MUCH LONGER.
I'M GOING TO FIND ONE, GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
STAY IN THIS ROOM--BAR THE DOOR--SHOOT ANYTHING THAT CAN'T TELL YOU ITS NAME.
Y-YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME... HERE?
IT'S SAFER IN HERE. TAKE MY GUN.
YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT.
I'LL FIND AN EVAC AND BE RIGHT BACK.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GO?
FLASH, THIS IS CRAZY, YOU'RE... I MEAN, YOU'RE...
A CORPORAL IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY NEXT. RIGHT, BETTY?
Eugene, I hope you're well.

I hope the crazy business outside is wrapped up, as it always is, and that you aren't injured.
I want to give you my thoughts while Im lucid.
In case we don't see each other again.
My doctor just informed me I won't see tomorrow.
No moment in your life can prepare you for those words.
I wasn't prepared, tell you that.
Thankfully, your mother and sister are safely home in Queens, and I have your lovely girlfriend by my side.
Betty is a charming woman, so much character and warmth.
My opinions don't probably deserve any consideration in your plans.
But marry this girl, or it will be the great mistake of your life.
The Queen's Lair.
BELOW CENTRAL PARK.
...TO THE REST. IN OTHER NEWS, THE PRESIDENT HAS ALERTED ALL ACTIVE AVENGERS TO RETURN TO THE AREA...
MORE AVENGERS
WHY NOT?

WITH NO NEWS COMING OUT OF THE CITY, MANY SPECULATE EVERYONE WITHIN HAS BEEN AFFLICTED BY THE TRANSFORMATION.
MEDIA BIAS... "AFFLICTED" IMPLIES SOMETHING UNFORTUNATE HAS BEFALLEN THE LUCKY DUCKIES.
I haven't always made things easy for you, Eugene.
I imagine it was pretty hard to have me for a dad.
KRITCCH
And it hurts like hell.
HMMH.
=WHIMPER=
And there's no way I can ever fix it.
I've been a mean son of a bitch.
LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO ME.

IT APPEARS THE GOOD PROFESSOR'S PREDILECTION TOWARDS CLONING FORMER STUDENTS DOESN'T MAKE FOR A DECENT MANICURIST, DOES IT, MR. THOMPSON?
You came into this Earth a smiling baby boy who brought joy to our house...
...But I changed that.
Gave you the pain and rage that my old man inflicted on me.
Taught you the same fear and mistrust.
I DON'T HAVE POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR "CLUMSY."
I know there's nothing I can say to change the lasting effects my rage will have on your life.
BLAMM

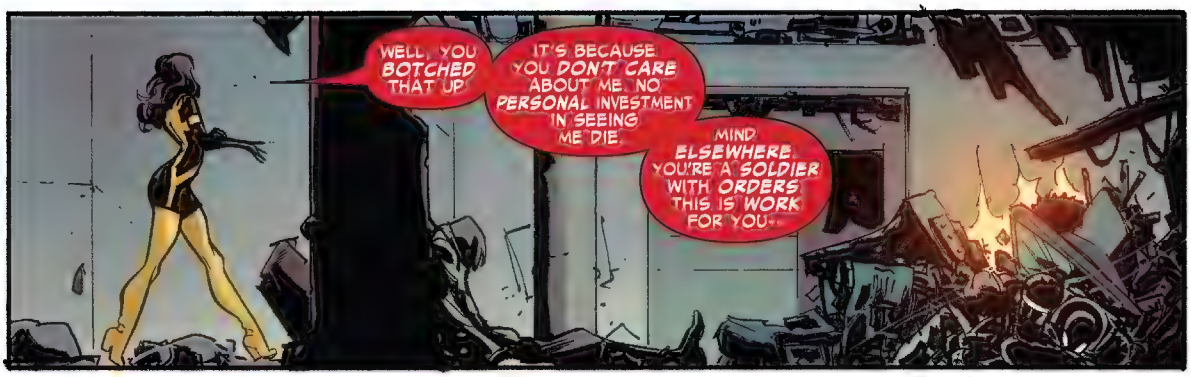
IMPOLITE.
Yet somehow--


GOING TO BORROW THIS FOR A SEC.
--through it all--

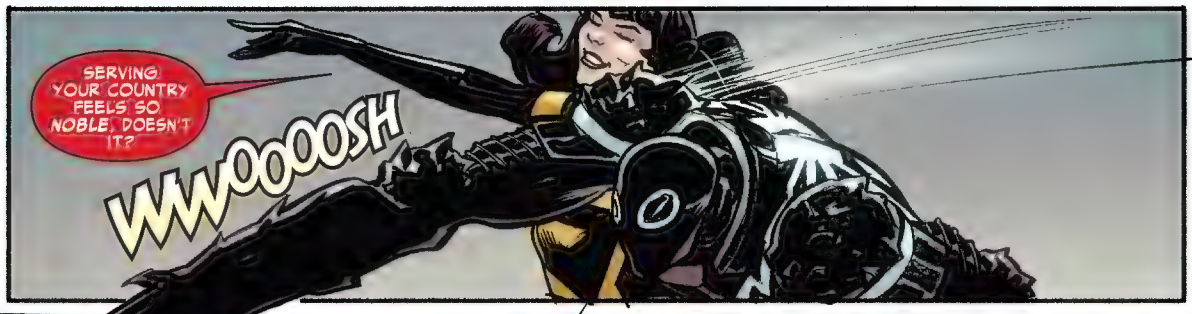
NO!
BLAMM
SKREE!
--You found your own way--

--you found the greatness within you--
OUI-OUI.

KLOOM


WELL, YOU BOTCHED THAT UP.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME. NO PERSONAL INVESTMENT IN SEEING ME DIE.
MIND ELSEWHERE. YOU'RE A SOLDIER WITH ORDERS. THIS IS WORK FOR YOU.

--BUT THIS IS MY LIFE.
I AM PROFOUNDLY INVESTED.


SERVING YOUR COUNTRY FEELS SO NOBLE, DOESN'T IT?
WWOOOOSH

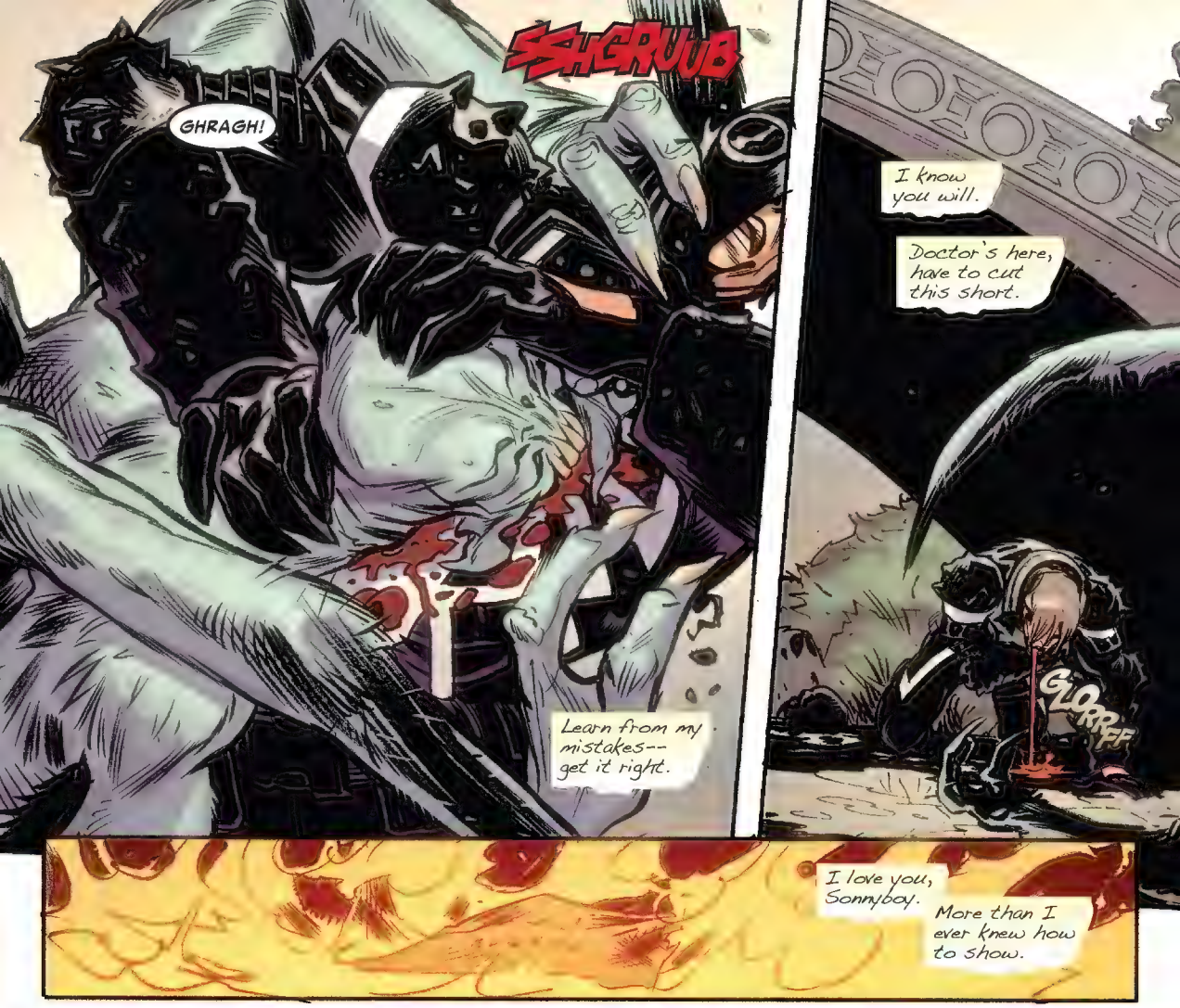
IN WORLD WAR II, THERE WERE VERY FEW WOMEN IN THE MARINES.
TWOK

I JOINED ANYWAY.
KRUCHH

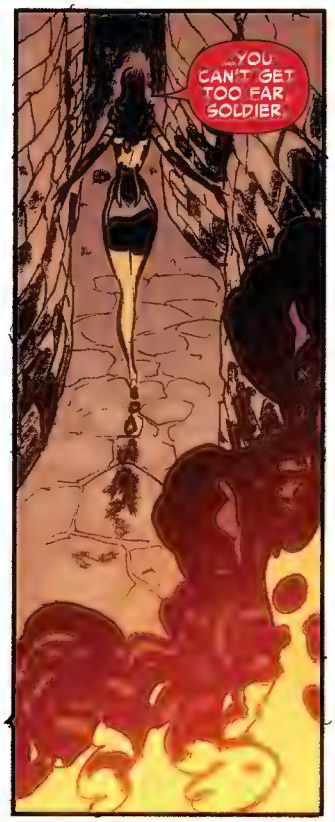
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE PRICE I PAID TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.
KRRR

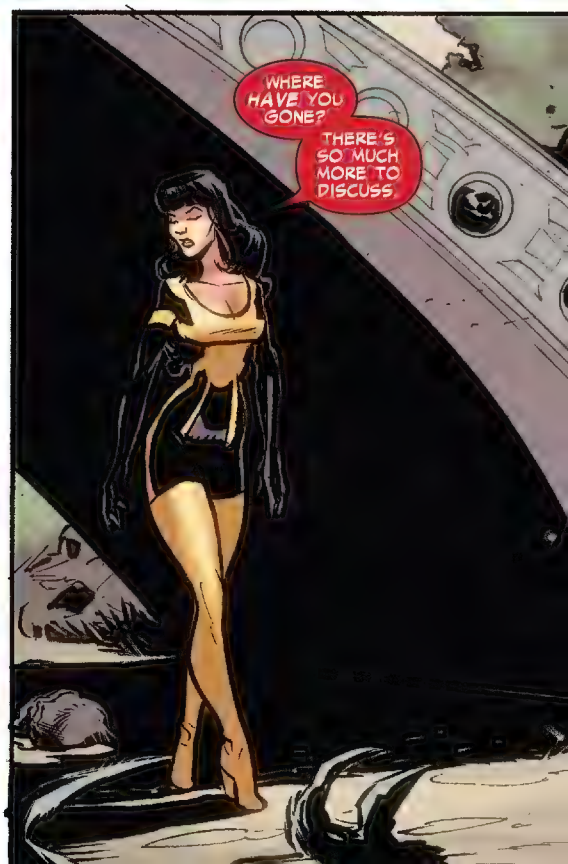
GGRRAHH!
SHNKK
I would've collapsed after suffering the loss of my legs.
NOW?! NOW YOU SUDDENLY SHOW STONES YOU SPINELESS TICK?!
It only made you stronger.
More determined.
OOF--!
C'MON, GET IT TOGETHER-- I NEED YOU!
You never let your demons get the better of you like I did.
DAD'S LETTER...
You were always there for your family...
And for your country.
GOOD NEWS, YOU GET TO DIE KNOWING WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BE A MAN.
SKKREE--!

...FITTINGLY UNDER THE BOOT OF A QUEEN.
KRUCHH
NOW... WHERE'S OUR NEW FRIEND GONE AND RUN OFF TO?
I never told you how proud you made me.
Marry Betty.
Have children.
C'MON! WAKE UP, YOU COLD BASTARD!
WE JUST NEED A MINUTE--CATCH UP--JUST NEED--
--A MINUTE OF PEACE.
SSKRREEEE!!
YERAGHH!!
CHOMMPP
It's a cliché, but family is everything.
Love yours for all they're worth.


SSHKGRUUB
GHRAGH!
Learn from my mistakes-- get it right.
I know you will.
Doctor's here, have to cut this short.
GLORRFFF
I love you, Sonnyboy.
More than I ever knew how to show.

SCIMPER. SCAMPER.


...YOU CAN'T GET TOO FAR, SOLDIER.


WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO DISCUSS.

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
THWIPP
MURGLE!
I'VE PAID ENOUGH FOR YOUR CRAZY SCHEME.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

KWADOOM
NOT YET
I HAVEN'T HAD SUCH A NICE DATE SINCE... FOREVER.
STILL, I WAGED WAR ON YOUR COUNTRY, TOOK OVER NEW YORK...
BETTY IS LOCKED IN A HOSPITAL ROOM...
IS IT CRAZY THAT I'M A TAD OFFENDED YOU WERE ALL THEY COULD MUSTER, SOLDIER?
CITY IS OVERRUN...
...THE SPIDERS WILL FIND HER.
SSKREEEEE
SHE WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER...
THERE. A LOOK AT THAT HANDSOME, HANDSOME FACE.
:KOFF!: STOP :HACK!: :KOFF!:
BETTY HAS ENOUGH AMMO TO TAKE DOWN TWO...
MAYBE THREE...

STILL, A SMIDGEN TOO IMPUDENT
KLUDD
HOOF--
IF I CAN'T GET UP...
...IF I DON'T GET BACK TO HER...
BETTER-- HUMBLE.
SO MUCH SEXIER THIS WAY, SOLDIER.
THERE'S INTIMACY TO TAKING A LIFE.
TO BE THE LAST FACE A MAN WILL EVER SEE.
THE CLOSEST BOND TWO PEOPLE CAN SHARE.
IT'S AROUSING
WOKK
THIS GETS ME PURRING, GETS ME REVVED UP MORE THAN TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE CITY DID.
TO MOUNT YOU. TO DOMINATE YOU. TO BE THE LAST WOMAN YOU'LL EVER TOUCH...
-HWOKK-
DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, QUEEN...

...CENTRAL PARK HAS RULES ABOUT PUBLIC FORNICATION...
...AND WE'VE GOT A FIGHT TO FINISH.
KWUNKK

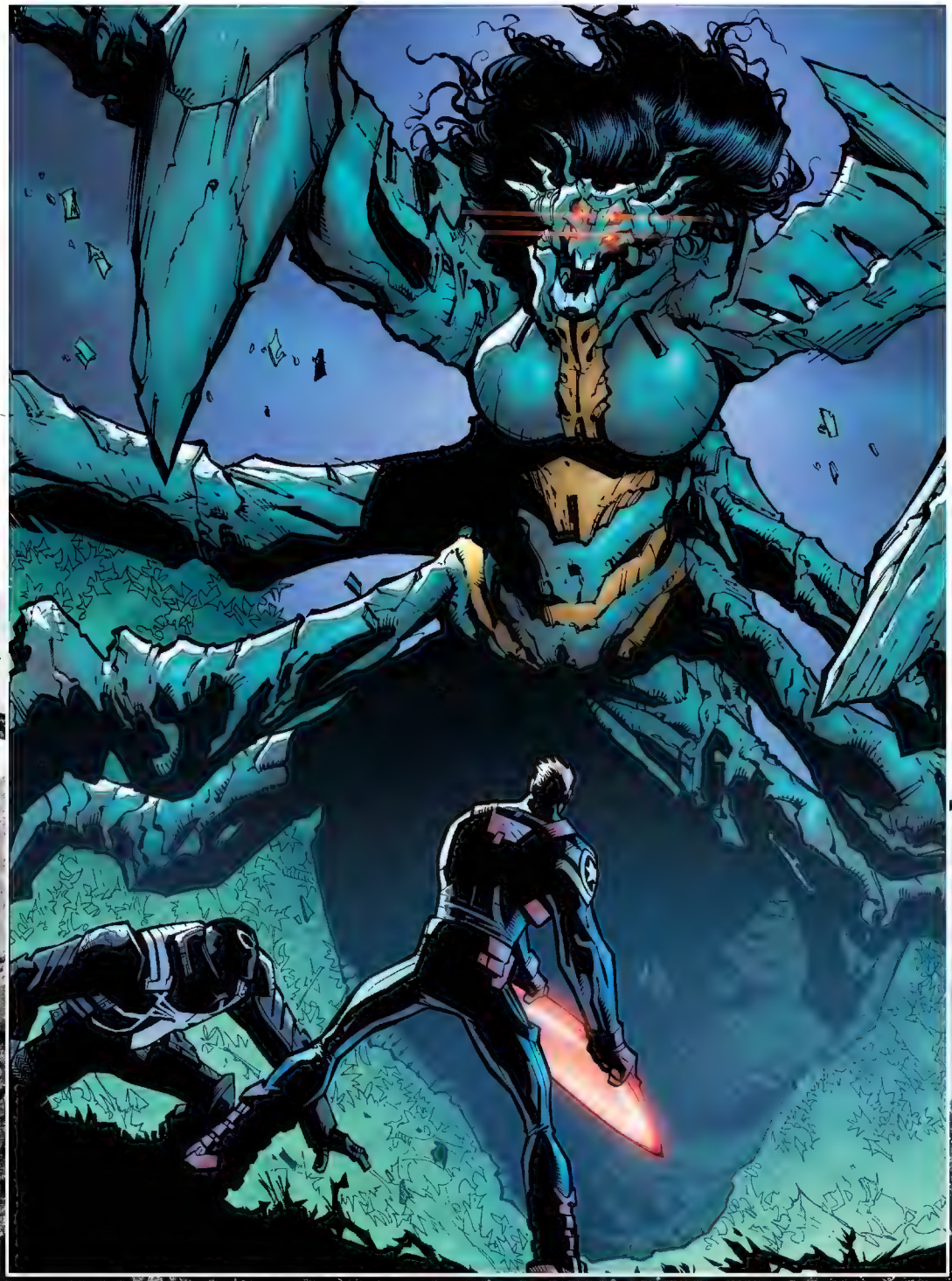
SO MANY HANDSOME MEN VYING FOR MY AFFECTIONS.
FORTUNATELY BOYS, MY APPETITE IS VORACIOUS.
YOU SEEM UPSET, FINDING ME STRADDLING ANOTHER SOLDIER.
DON'T BE JEALOUS, STEVEN.
TWUP
KWUD
SKRAK
TWOK
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY FIRST.
WOOF--!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO USE PROTECTION.
TWUMP
GOOD. DON'T HOLD BACK.
PLAD
GIVE ME ALL YOU HAVE.
SKAKK
KYOK
YES. SATISFY ME.
DWAP
OH, STEVE. YOU ARE TRULY ONE OF A KIND.
YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A WOMAN. YOU MAKE ME FEEL INCREDIBLE...
DON'T GET TOO USED TO THAT.
SHLUNK
GAA--

HER FAULT.
AKK GAKK--
WASN'T WITH HIM.
HER FAULT BETTY'S IN DANGER.
SHE'S DEAD.
I DIDN'T WANT TO-- T-THEY TOLD ME SHE HAD TO DIE *KOFF* TO STOP IT ALL.
MAYBE SHE DID, SON. SHE DIDN'T LEAVE MANY OPTIONS.
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO.
NO TIME FOR REGRET IN WAR.
YEAH, THE REGRET IS--WHAT THE--?!
OH, MAN...
THE FUTURE-- I CAN SEE IT--!
I WAS SO FRIGHTENED I WOULD MISS IT!
THE ALL IS NOW!!

HOLD YOUR HEADS LOW! I OFFER MERCY TO THOSE WITH VISION.
ACCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE SPIDER!
DO NOT FEAR THE FUTURE! STRANDED, ALONE, KNOCKING HEADS AS YOU STUMBLE THROUGH IT ALL.
YOUR WORLD IS LOST--BUT I WILL BRING YOU THE NEW--
I AM YOUR SPIDER-QUEEN!
OKAY.
I REGRET IT.
SOLDIER? YOU STILL WITH ME?
ALWAYS.
ALL RIGHT THEN. ROUND TWO!

In *Amazing Spider-Man #672*, Venom battled the monstrous Queen and her minions alongside the Avengers and X-Men. Spider-Man's clone, Kaine, slew the Queen, while Spider-Man cured the mutated citizens of New York City with Anti-Venom's antibodies and an army of miniature Octobots. Venom, still reeling from his father's death, must now protect Manhattan's suddenly human populace against those who would profit from their confusion...



I'VE TAKEN BEATINGS IN MY LIFE.
HAD BODY AND MIND PUT TO THE TEST.
FOOTBALL.
DAD.
BOOT CAMP.
MOSUL.
BOTH LEGS AMPUTATED ABOVE THE KNEE.
AN ENTIRE LIFETIME OF GETTING MY ASS KICKED TO THE GROUND CAN'T BEGIN TO MEASURE UP TO THESE PAST TWELVE HOURS.
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

DAD...
HAVEN'T HAD A MOMENT TO ABSORB IT.
HAVEN'T TOLD MOM OR JESSIE.
I CAN'T. CAN'T BE THE ONE.
HAVE TO FIND HER. SOMEHOW IN ALL OF THIS CRAZINESS. DEAR GOD, LET ME FIND HER...
BETTY...
LEFT HER IN HIS HOSPITAL ROOM--
LEFT HER ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF THIS.
VIRUS WENT AIRBORNE.
NO WAY SHE ESCAPED IT.
DEAR GOD LET HER BE OKAY.
EVEN IF SHE IS...
N.Y.

BANK OF
"...JUST LET HER BE OKAY."
CRAZY. RIDICULOUS CITY.
MOM, DAD, THEY ALL WARNED ME, MOVING TO NEW YORK WAS A DEATH WISH.
BUT NO, RON IS GOING TO BE AN ACTOR.
GOING TO MAKE A GO IN THE BIG CITY.
BEEN LYING TO THEM FOR SO LONG, BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? I'M LIVING IN A MOLDY CLOSET AND GRINDING IT OUT AS A SECURITY GUARD?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MOM, NOTHING TO REPORT THIS WEEK--
MAYBE I WAS JUST TURNED INTO A GIANT SPIDER AND WOKE UP BUCK NAKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.
NO. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW.
THINGS'LL GET BETTER.
THEY CAN'T GET MUCH...

KROOOOM
THREE BANKS IN TWENTY MINUTES AND THE HIJACKER IS JUST GETTIN' STARTED!
BE HOME AND RICH BEFORE THE COPS FIND THEIR PANTS.
YOU RAN THAT MAN OVER.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN SLOW DOWN!
ONE OF MANY TODAY, HERO.
DO YOUR WORST--BETTER THAN IF YOU'VE TRIED TO GET INTO MY IMPENETRABLE TANK--

NONE HAVE SUCCEEDED!
KRADOOOOOM
KATHERINE, YOU THERE?!
GIVEN THAT WE HAD JUST SAVED NEW YORK I ASSUMED YOU'D STAY OUT OF TROUBLE FOR FIFTEEN MIN--
GET A SATELLITE ON ME NOW AND GIVE ME INTEL ON THIS TANK!
SON OF A--
--RUN!
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU--
MOVE YOUR ASS--
OKAY-- TROUBLEMAKER'S NAME IS THE HIJACKER.
IMPENETRABLE TANK EQUIPPED WITH COUNTLESS WEAPONS, GAS, GUNS.
NO KIDDING.
MAIN PERSONAL WEAPON IS A GUN THAT DISPENSES NUCLEAR FLAME.
KROMCCHH
AGENT VENOM, YOUR SYMBIOTE CANNOT SURVIVE A HIT FROM THAT GUN.
AGENT VENOM? ARE YOU THERE--?
KROOOOOM
BUSY.
JUMPED IN LIKE A ROOKIE--
--IGNORED MY TRAINING--
--SENT HIM RUNNING.
PANICKING--OUT OF CONTROL.

THAT DEAD SECURITY GUARD--

--NEEDLESS--

SET ME OFF REDLINING--

KILL THIS SON OF A BITCH--

KRASH

WOOOOM

STOP-- CALM DOWN--

CONTROL YOUR ANGER, STUPID--

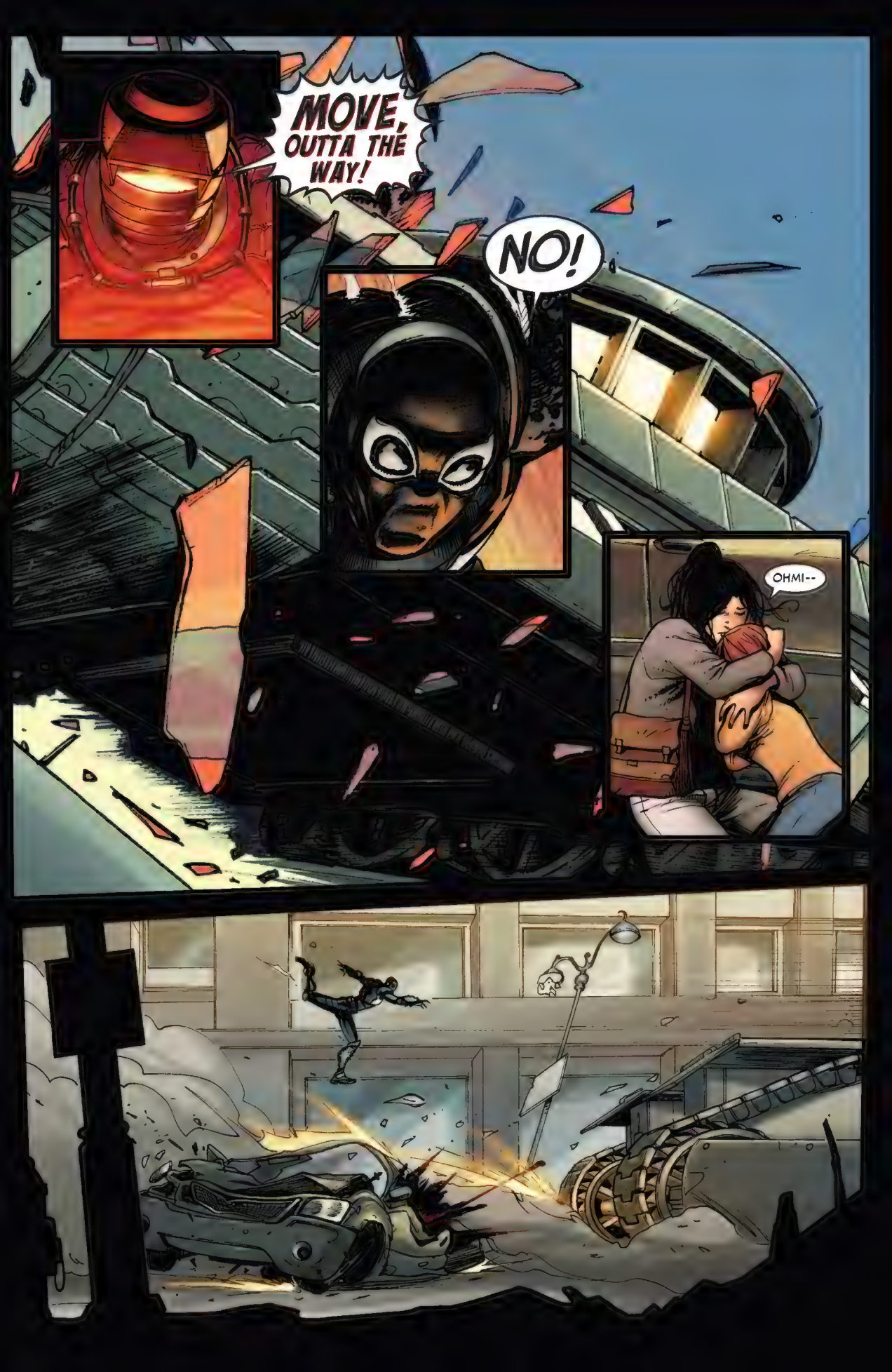
GET IN FRONT OF THAT TANK--

KOOOM

GET IN FRONT OF IT BEFORE--

MOM...

--OH, NO--


MOVE, OUTTA THE WAY!
NO!
OHMI--

THE MOMENT--
IT HANGS--
--FROZEN--
--FOR A MILLION YEARS.
WON'T GO AWAY.
THE MOMENT HANGS THERE.
THEN WE WAKE UP.
OKAY, OKAY, N-NOT YOUR FAULT--
PEDESTRIANS GET HURT EVERY DAY--TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ACCOUNT FOR MOST UNNATURAL DEATHS--
COULD'VE HAPPENED CROSSING THE ROAD--
JUST GET ENOUGH SPEED-- GET TO THE TUNNELS--THEY'LL NEVER FIND--

RRRHOOORRR!
DOOOOM
GHRAGHH!
WHAT THE--?! VENOM?!
THAT GUY WAS VENOM?! IF IT WEREN'T FOR BAD LUCK--
BEEEP

GHRASHH!!
GGGGAZZZAK
MMMOVVE!
RRUNN!

WHOOMPP

Cataret, New Jersey.
Later.
SUCCESS!
ALL THESE YEARS OF STRUGGLING--BEING A NOBODY--ALL OVER!
DUMPED EVERY SINGLE PENNY I EVER HAD INTO THIS TANK--BUT IT'S FINALLY PAID OFF! HA-HA!
I HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD.
TOO BADD...

...YOU'LL NEEVVER GEET TTO SPPENDD ITT.
SHENK
GAA--

YEREACH!
I COULD TAKE HIM TO THE COPS--
VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER, FLEEING THE SCENE OF A CRIME--
TWOOOOM
MY FINGERS!
--HE'D GET LIFE IN JAIL.
BUT HE DOESN'T DESERVE LIFE ANYWHERE.
YOU BROKE OFF MY FINGERS!
SKUD
THAT MOTHER AND HER SON LIE DEAD IN TIMES SQUARE.
EVERYTHING TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM.
EVERY BIRTHDAY PARTY.
EVERY BEDSIDE STORY.
EVERY DAY AT THE BEACH.
=HOKK= =KOFF= PLEASE...

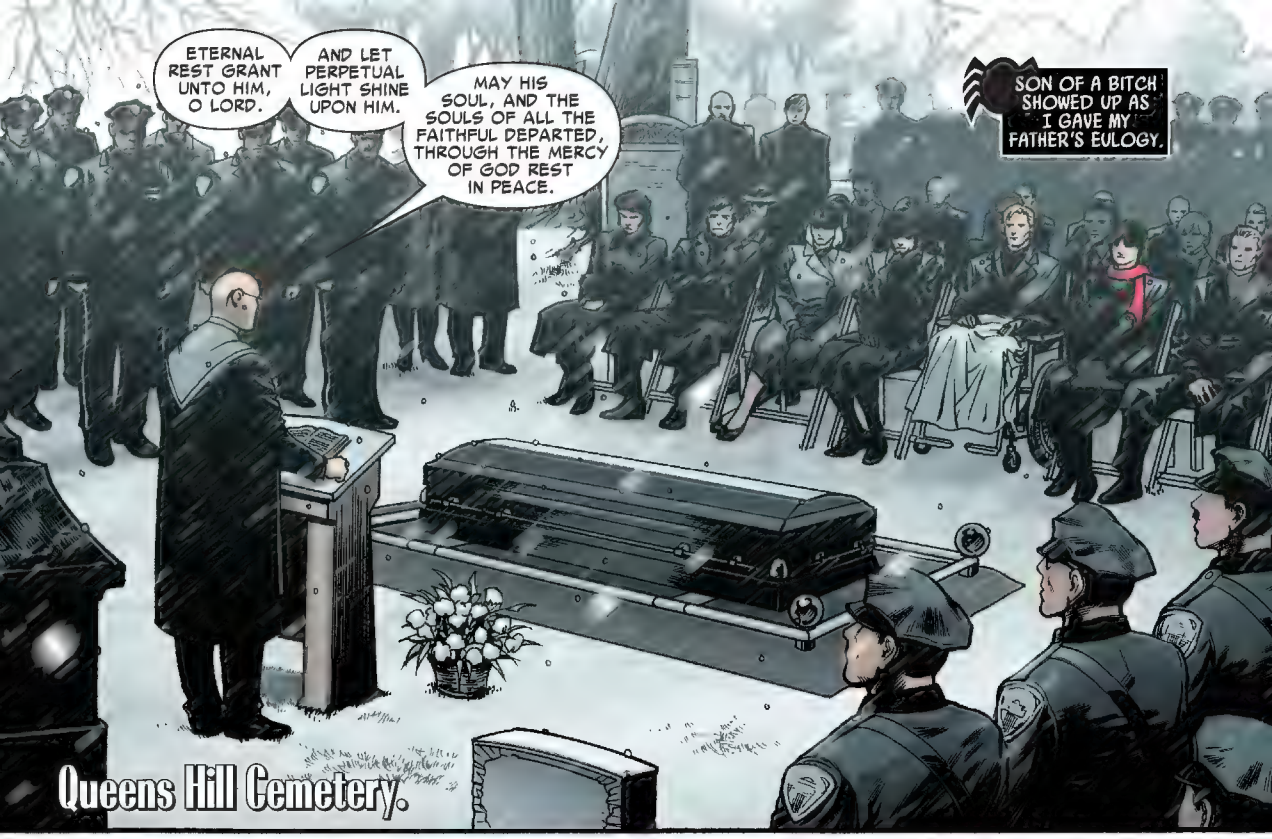
KRUUM
A FATHER WILL NEVER TEACH HIS BOY TO PLAY FOOTBALL.
SEE HIS FIRST DATE.
HIS WEDDING.
THEIR LIVES ERADICATED FROM EXISTENCE.
KKRNNCHH
GRAGHH!
BECAUSE HE WANTED TO BE RICH.
KRITTCH
BBEGG UUSSS...
PLEASE... I...I DON'T WANT TO DIE... PLEASE...

ANYTHING... A-ANYTHING YOU WANT... PLEASE...
SCHOMP
PTTHUI--
HE DIES IN TERROR.
SMALL JUSTICE.

FLASH?
FLASH? HEY.
HEY.
HMM?
OH-- OH, GOD-- BETTY!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? I WAS SO WORRIED.
DID YOU... DID YOU CHANGE INTO...
'A MONSTER.'
I WOKE UP, BUCK NAKED, IN THE STREETS WITH A COUPLE OF OTHER THOUSAND PEOPLE.
I'M GUESSING I WAS TURNED INTO ONE OF THOSE SPIDERS.
WERE YOU...?

THERE WAS A UTILITY ROOM--I BOLTED THE DOOR, LOCKED MYSELF IN.
YOU'RE TOO DAMN RESOURCEFUL FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, BRANT.
YOU FOUND A NICE LITTLE HIDEY-HOLE WHILE I ENDED UP GETTING SWALLOWED UP.
IT WAS VERY BRAVE OF YOU TO GO OUT THERE LOOKING FOR AN EVACUATION COPTER.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT YOU.
HAVE YOU TALKED TO YOUR MOTHER YET? D-DOES SHE KNOW?
NOT YET.
I'VE BEEN SITTING WITH IT... CAN'T PICK UP THE PHONE. HOW DO I TELL HER SHE'LL NEVER GET TO SAY GOODBYE?
HOW DO I TELL BETTY WHAT I'VE BECOME?
IT'S A GOOD THING HE HAD ME WRITE OUT THOSE LETTERS.
LOST IT-- I NEVER GOT TO READ IT.
THE ONE I GAVE YOU WAS CLEANED UP A BIT, I WANTED IT TO BE NICE FOR YOU.
BUT I HAVE THE ORIGINAL DRAFT.
IT'S IN MY SHORTHAND, SO I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I READ IT TO YOU.
YEAH, OKAY.

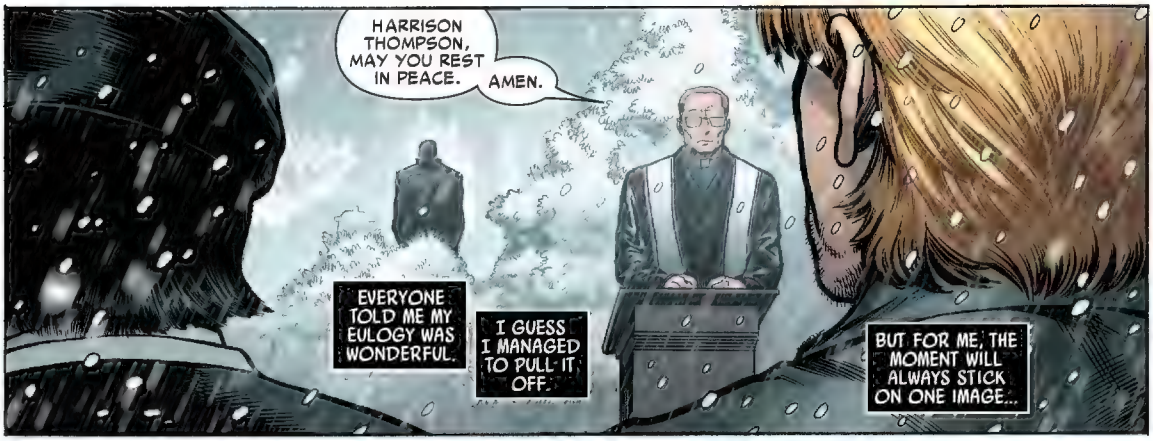
"EUGENE, I HOPE YOU'RE WELL.
"I HOPE THE CRAZY BUSINESS OUTSIDE IS WRAPPED UP, AS IT ALWAYS IS, AND THAT YOU AREN'T INJURED."
"I WANT TO GIVE YOU MY THOUGHTS WHILE I'M LUCID.
"IN CASE WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN."
"MY DOCTOR JUST INFORMED ME I WON'T SEE TOMORROW.
"NO MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE CAN PREPARE YOU FOR THE MOMENT BEFORE YOU DIE..."
"...I WASN'T PREPARED, I CAN TELL YOU THAT."


ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD.
AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM.
MAY HIS SOUL, AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE.
SON OF A BITCH SHOWED UP AS I GAVE MY FATHER'S EULOGY.
Queens Hill Cemetery.

PRACTICED ALL NIGHT, TO DO RIGHT BY THE MAN WHO RAISED ME.
LEAVE THINGS CLEAN.
MOVE PAST THE DAMAGE.

TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD TO GET UP THERE, IN FRONT OF THEM ALL--THEIR KNOWING GLANCES--I WALKED TO THE FRONT OF THAT CHURCH...

AND THERE *HE* WAS.
TEN FEET AWAY.


HARRISON THOMPSON, MAY YOU REST IN PEACE.
AMEN.
EVERYONE TOLD ME MY EULOGY WAS WONDERFUL.
I GUESS I MANAGED TO PULL IT OFF.
BUT FOR ME, THE MOMENT WILL ALWAYS STICK ON ONE IMAGE...

...THE JACK O' LANTERN'S CROOKED, BROKEN SMILE.

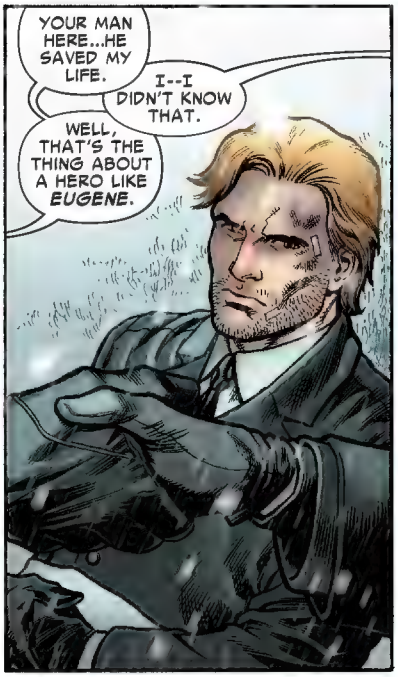
AMEN.

AND YOU'RE SURE YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE AT THE HOUSE?
WE COULD PICK UP SOME FOOD...
HMM? NO, THAT'S FINE...WE'RE FINE.

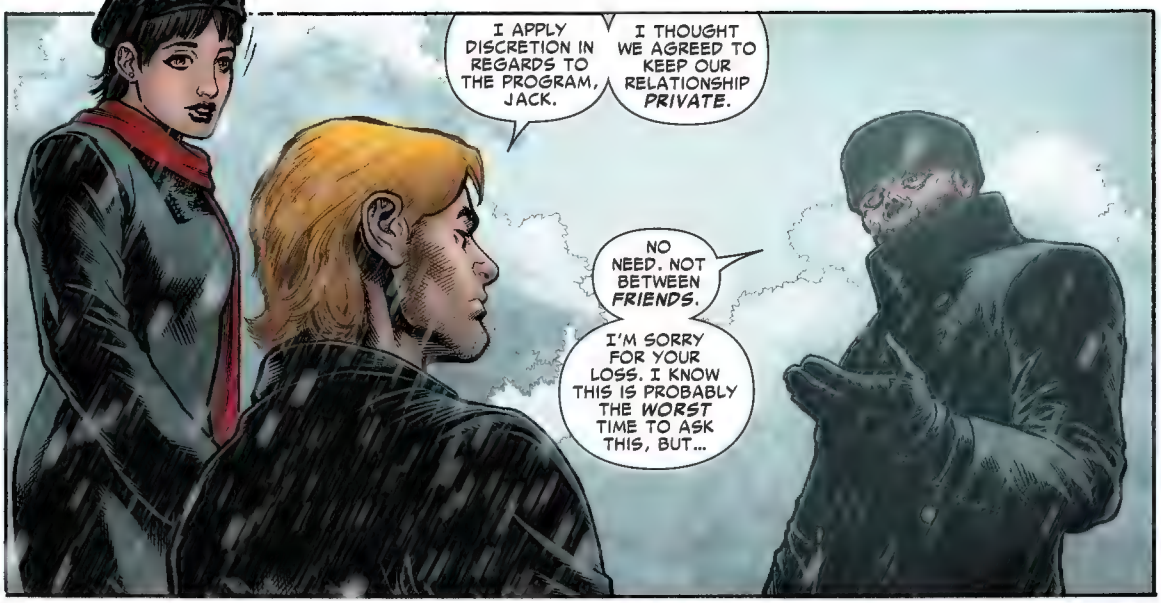
JUST FAMILY, PETE. FOR TODAY.
YOU AND MJ ARE GREAT FOR EVEN COMING.
SURE. BUT CALL FOR ANYTHING. DAY OR NIGHT.

EXCUSE ME, EUGENE.
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY SHOWING UP.
WHEN I HEARD THE BAD NEWS, WELL, I FIGURED I'D COME PAY MY RESPECTS.

YOU MUST BE BETTY. I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE ME AT A LOSS. YOU ARE...?
JACK. EUGENE AND I SERVED TOGETHER IN MOSUL. WHICH IS WHY I'M SO PRETTY NOW.


YOUR MAN HERE...HE SAVED MY LIFE.
I--I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
WELL, THAT'S THE THING ABOUT A HERO LIKE EUGENE.

HE PROBABLY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HE SAVED. PROBABLY KEEPS A LOT OF SECRETS.
PROBABLY DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT HE'S MY SPONSOR IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS EITHER, DID HE?
WHAT A MENSCH.


I APPLY DISCRETION IN REGARDS TO THE PROGRAM, JACK.
I THOUGHT WE AGREED TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP *PRIVATE*.
NO NEED. NOT BETWEEN *FRIENDS*.
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. I KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY THE *WORST* TIME TO ASK THIS, BUT...

I'M IN A DAMN HARD SPOT.
COULD REALLY USE A FRIEND RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

I'M SORRY, JACK.
NOW ISN'T THE *BEST* TIME FOR ME.
I RECOMMEND YOU HIT UP A MEETING, WE'LL FIND ANOTHER TIME TO TALK.

I'LL TAKE YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR SISTER BACK TO THE HOUSE.
GO. SOUNDS LIKE HE NEEDS YOU.

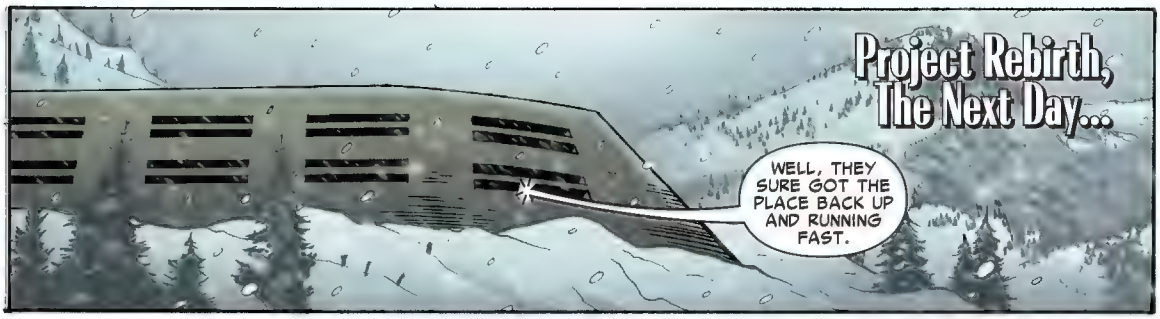
LADY, IT WOULD MEAN THE *WORLD* TO ME.
WHO KNOWS...?

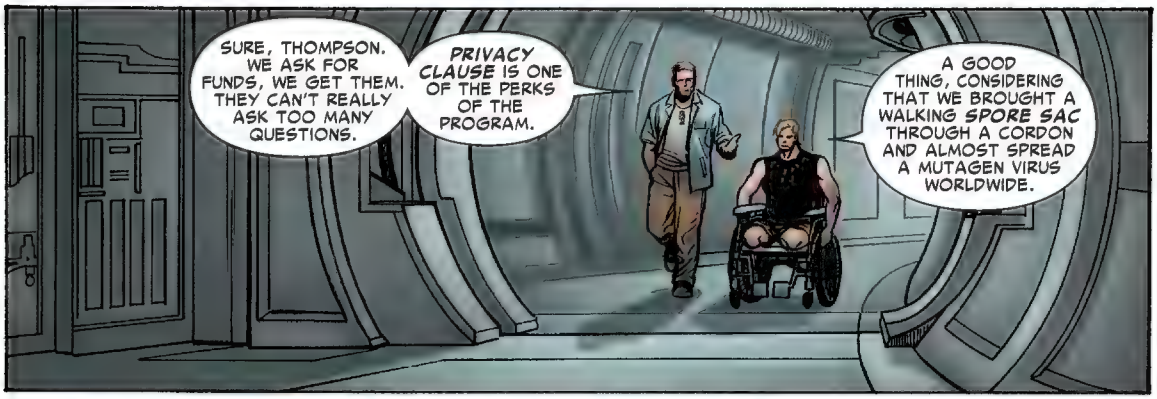
"...YOU MIGHT EVEN BE SAVING A LIFE."
OH, MAN. THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE...
...YOU WANTED TO KILL ME.
I'M GOING TO.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
CLEAN.
LISTEN, JUST LET'S KEEP OUR *LAST* ENCOUNTER BETWEEN US.
DADDY-O, HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW I LOST HIS *VIBRANIUM* WHILE TRYING TO KILL YOU.*
SEE VENOM #4.
SO, IF YOU LIKE BETTY-- AND SHE IS VERY PRETTY *ALIVE*--JUST KEEP YOUR LIPS SEALED, BELINDA.
HEY, JACK.

GRACIE! HOW'S TRICKS?
YOU KNOW. CRIME-MASTER'S GOT ME STUCK IN A TUBE ALL DAY.
LET'S MEET WHEN YOU GET OFF.
WE CAN TURN THAT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
YOU GONNA BRING YOUR HANDSOME FRIEND?
WHO? SOURPUSS?
HE HATES FUN IN ALL INCARNATIONS. IT'S WHY GOD TOOK HIS LEGS AWAY.
FLASH, MY BOY...
...THAT WAS A BIT TOO JOVIAL, WASN'T IT?
CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, WHAT-HAVE-YOU.
FORGIVE MY INSENSITIVITY.
MY CONDOLENCES, BUDDY.

RIGHT. WE'RE NOT FRIENDS, ARE WE?
LET'S GET TO IT, YES?
I NEED YOUR "ALTER EGO" TO DO A LITTLE WORK.
AND IF I DO THIS "*WORK*," YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE?
OH, GOD NO. NO. PROBABLY NOT.
HONESTLY, I'LL HAVE MANY MORE JOBS FOR YOU, SPORT.
I LIKE THE WAY YOU *PRETEND* NOT TO KNOW THE *DEAL* HERE. *SAVVY* NEGOTIATOR.
THE *REAL DEAL* ISN'T ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GIVEN, THE *REAL DEAL* IS WHAT YOU GET TO *KEEP*.
YOUR *MOTHER*.
BETTY.
EVERYONE YOU KNOW.
I'LL ALLOW THEM ALL TO CONTINUE *LIVING*.

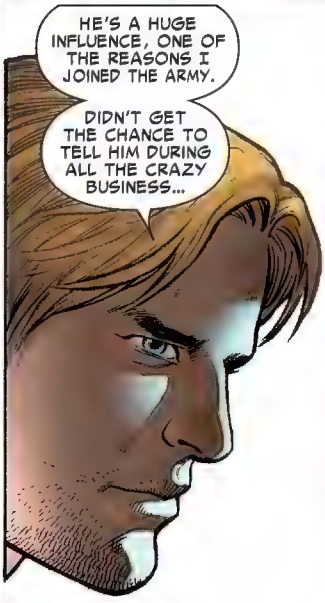
SIMPLY ACQUIRE YOUR SYMBIOTE, HEAD TOWARDS LAS VEGAS.
YOUR SUIT WILL KNOW WHAT I WANT WHEN YOU GET THERE.
I COULD KILL HIM RIGHT NOW.
EASY PEASY, RIGHT?
NECK WIDE OPEN.
TWIST HIS HEAD BACK AND OFF--
CLEAN BREAK.
GOONS WOULD GUN ME DOWN.
JACK WOULD KILL BETTY.
NOT THE RIGHT TIME.
SOON.
SO, ANYWAY YOU'RE ALL PISSED OFF NOW, YOU JUST BURIED YOUR DAD, YOU'RE BEING BLACKMAILED AND YOUR FAMILY THREATENED.
SOON.
COLLECT YOURSELF--FIND WHAT I WANT--BRING IT BACK.
AS VENOM.
HOW DO I FIND YOU?
WE'LL KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.
JACK--SEE HIM OUT--PLAY NICE.
LOUD AN' CLEAR, DADDY-O.
GET THEM ALL IN THE SAME ROOM.
KILL EVERY ONE OF 'EM.


Project Rebirth, The Next Day...
WELL, THEY SURE GOT THE PLACE BACK UP AND RUNNING FAST.


SURE, THOMPSON. WE ASK FOR FUNDS, WE GET THEM. THEY CAN'T REALLY ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS.
PRIVACY CLAUSE IS ONE OF THE PERKS OF THE PROGRAM.
A GOOD THING, CONSIDERING THAT WE BROUGHT A WALKING SPORE SAC THROUGH A CORDON AND ALMOST SPREAD A MUTAGEN VIRUS WORLDWIDE.

THE REAL SHAME IS THAT I CAN'T TELL MY GIRLFRIEND THE STORY.
MILLIONS OF SPIDERS, ME WITH A SHOTGUN FULL OF ZINC OXIDE--MIGHT MAKE HER LOOK PAST MY PONYTAIL.
HELL, YOU BEAT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ASS. YOU GOTTA BE JUST ITCHING TO TELL THAT TO BETTY.

EVEN IF I COULD TELL HER WHAT I DO, I'D PROBABLY LEAVE OUT THE TIME THAT I ALMOST KILLED THE GOLD STANDARD DEFINITION OF THE WORD "HERO."
GREW UP WATCHING CAP FIGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY.


HE'S A HUGE INFLUENCE, ONE OF THE REASONS I JOINED THE ARMY.
DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO TELL HIM DURING ALL THE CRAZY BUSINESS...

YOU MIGHT JUST GET A SECOND SHOT AT YOUR PATRIOTIC LOVE EXCHANGE...

"...YOUR BOYFRIEND'S BACK."
I-- I GUESS YOU'RE CLEARED, SIR.
THANK YOU.
CAPTAIN AMERICA.
TO WHAT OCCASION DO WE OWE THE *PLEASURE* OF THIS SURPRISE-- AND HIGHLY CHAPERONED-- VISIT?
NO PLEASURE, GENERAL DODGE.
I'VE COME TO SHUT DOWN YOUR PROJECT REBIRTH.

I EXPECT FULL COOPERATION.
THAT IS YOUR HERO, COME TO SHUT DOWN THE PROGRAM THAT STOPPED HIM FROM SPREADING A DAMNED VIRUS THAT WOULD'VE TURNED THE ENTIRE WORLD INTO SPIDERS.
PIOUS ASS.
FORTUNATELY, OUR CLEARANCE AND PROTOCOL ALLOW FOR AGGREGATE PRIVACY AND AMNESTY.
I HAVE A SELF-DESTRUCT VIRUS SET TO ERODE ALL PROJECT: VENOM FILES AND ANYTHING LINKING IT TO...
...FLASH?
THE VENOM SYMBIOTE IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE USED AS A TOOL. IT'S COMING WITH ME.
WHERE?
TOP-SECRET NEW AVENGERS STATION WITH AN IMPENETRABLE CONTAINMENT CELL BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR IT.
I'M BOTH. I'M SORRY, BUT THIS PROJECT SHOWS A SEVERE LACK OF JUDGMENT, GENERAL.
BETTER UNDER THE WATCH OF COSTUMED HEROES THAN THE U.S. MILITARY?
I DON'T RECALL YOU BEING AS INCENSED WHEN AGENT VENOM STOPPED YOU FROM SPREADING THAT PLAGUE, CAPTAIN.

OH, HEY, LOOK--IF IT ISN'T CAPTAIN AMERICA.
HERE TO THANK VENOM FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE, NO DOUBT.
BAD NEWS THOUGH, ALPHAMAN.
THE GUY YOU WANTED TO THANK, HIS IDENTITY IS CONFIDENTIAL, PROTECTED UNDER AMNESTY INTERTWINED IN OUR PROGRAM'S BYLAWS.
PLUS, I JUST DELETED EVERY SINGLE FILE IN THE PLACE.
AND WORSE STILL...
"...AGENT VENOM IS ALREADY LONG GONE, BROTHER."
SUPER SMART, THOMPSON. AWOL WITH THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON...
JUST BORROWING IT.
THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY.
NOT WHY I'M DOING THIS--
CRIME-MASTER SITUATION--
NO OTHER OPTIONS.
HAS TO BE DEALT WITH.

STILL TIME--
--TURN AROUND--
TAKE IT BACK.
WITHOUT THE SYMBIOTE, I CAN'T PROTECT MY FAMILY.
CRIME-MASTER WOULD KILL BETTY.
WITHOUT THE SUIT I'M JUST--
TWIPP
--I'M NOTHING.
ONE LAST MISSION--
THEN RETURN THE SYMBIOTE.
NO MORE DELIBERATION.
TWO WAYS THIS CAN GO DOWN, SON.

...I'D PREFER THE EASY ONE.

I *NEED* THE SYMBIOTE. LIVES ARE ON THE LINE.

YOU HAVE TO *TRUST ME.*

IT'S THAT ROTTEN ALIEN I DON'T TRUST.

YOU *THINK* YOU HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL-- A FRIEND OF MINE DID, TOO--UNTIL HE *DIDN'T.*

I *WON'T* LET YOU TAKE IT.

THEN WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE.

BECAUSE I *WON'T* LET YOU STOP ME.

TWUNG

TACK ON "ASSAULTING CAPTAIN AMERICA" TO MY CHARGES.

HE'S RIGHT.

KWUNKK

WORST PART--

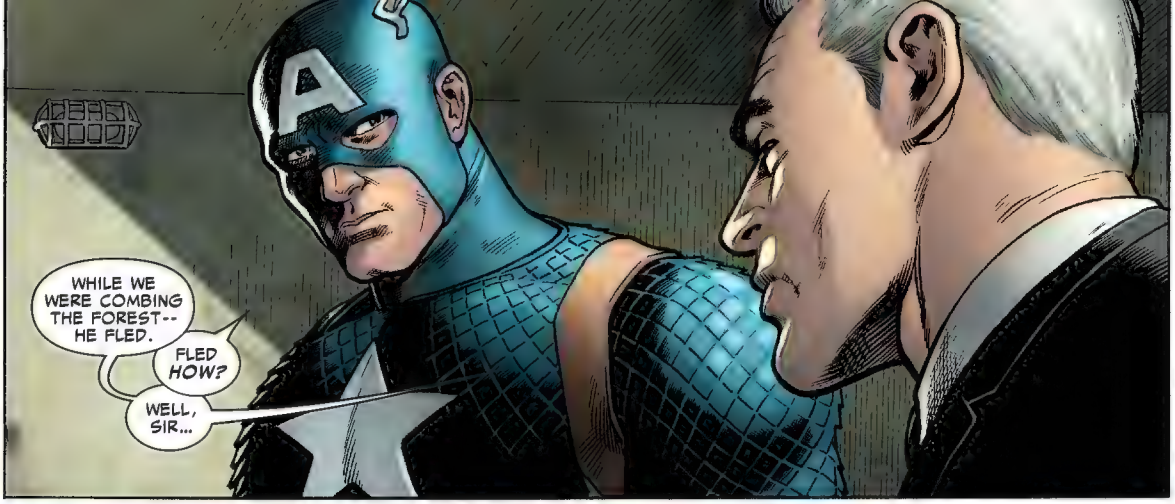
OFF--

LISTEN TO ME, SOLDIER-- WHATEVER THE TROUBLE IS-- I CAN HELP YOU.
BUT GOING AWOL--
SHLUP
YOU'LL NEVER OUTRUN THE LAW OR THE DISHONOR.
ONLY SEES A CRIMINAL.
NO MATTER WHAT I DO.
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
TWUNKK
ALL HE SEES IS THE SYMBIOTE.
THWIPP
BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU--
AKK--!

IF THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN DISHONOR AND PROTECTING MY FAMILY...
SKRAKK
...IT'S NO CHOICE AT ALL...
...SIR.
LETTING MYSELF GET ANGRY--
--HIT HIM TOO HARD--
NO--

HE'S OUT COLD--
--FREEFALLING--
--WON'T SURVIVE--
IF I LISTEN CLOSE--
--I CAN HEAR IT--
--THE SYMBIOTE LAUGHING.
PRAY IT HOLDS--
THWIPP
THOMPSON PULLS ANOTHER FAMOUS HAIL MARY PLAY.
WOOOOOSHH

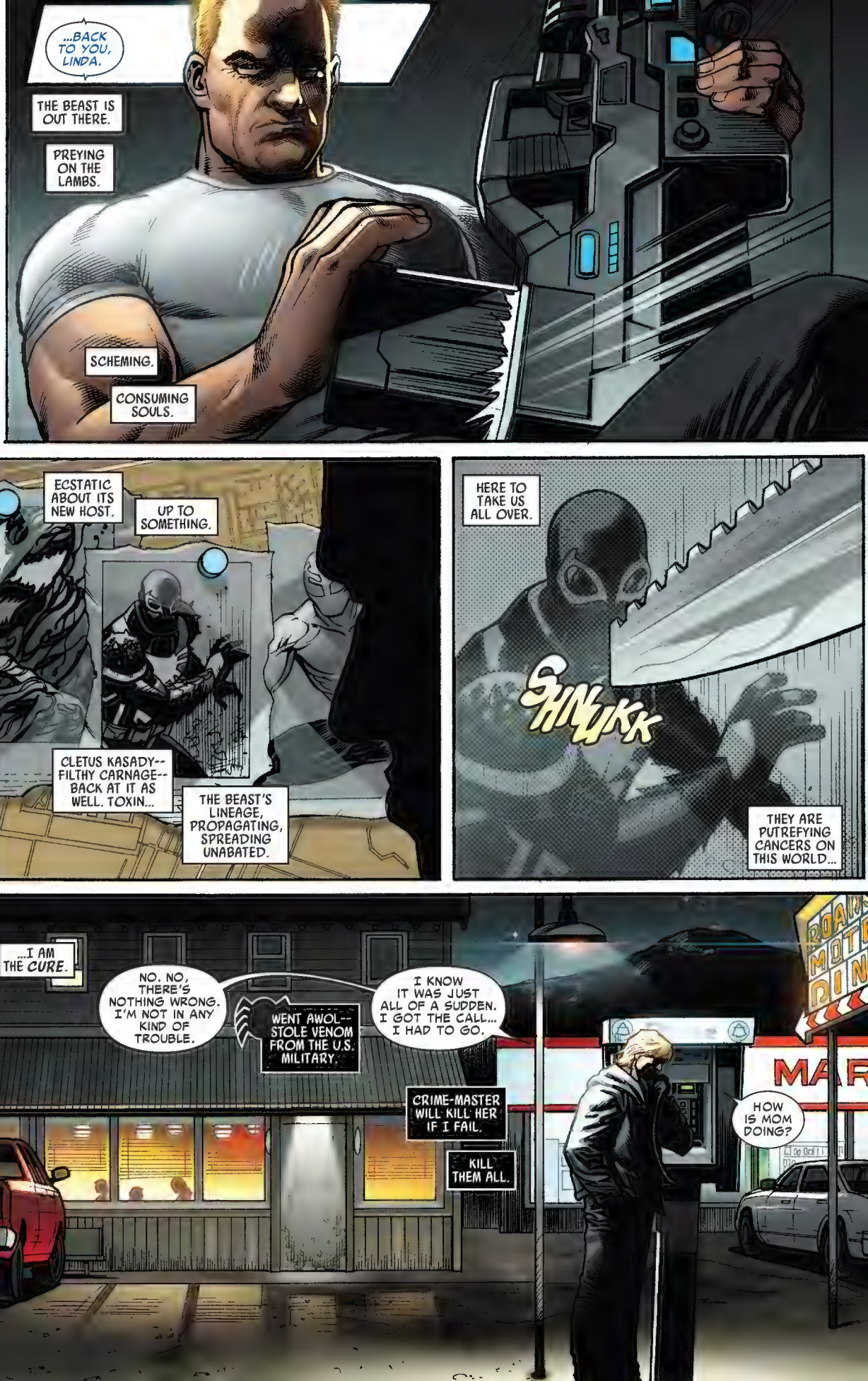
HEY, WAKE UP.
MY LIST OF CRIMES IS ADDING UP--
THE ORIGINAL SUPER-SOLDIER SHOULD BE ABLE TO SURVIVE A TWENTY-FOOT DROP.
KLUNGG
ARGH!
STILL, NOT SURE IF ATTEMPTING TO KILL CAPTAIN AMERICA IS A CRIME IF I ENDED UP SAVING HIM.
GUESS I'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.
DID ANYONE PUT EYES ON HIM?
HE CAME BACK HERE.
GOOD. OUR CHAT GOT THROUGH TO HIM.
WHERE IS HE NOW? I'D LIKE TO HAVE WORDS.
I'M SORRY, SIR, HE IS... NO LONGER HERE.
WHAT?


WHILE WE WERE COMBING THE FOREST-- HE FLED.
FLED HOW?
WELL, SIR...

ROAD TRIP
"...I'M AFRAID I HAVE MORE BAD NEWS TO REPORT."

MOTEL
POOL

New York City
AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION
...AND WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU, MR. EDDIE BROCK. IS THAT RIGHT?
YES, IT WAS MY ANTI-VENOM THAT HEALED OUR SPIDER-INFECTED CITY.
GOD GAVE MAN THE CURE; I WAS MERELY THE VESSEL.
AND MY REWARD?
THIS UTILITY CLOSET.
A MEAL OF STALE RICE.
HOMELESS.
NO JOB.
NO MONEY.
FAILSAFE ARMORY, ALL THAT'S LEFT.
A SIGN.
I HOPE THIS SALVATION WILL BRING HUMILITY TO THE SINNERS OF THIS CITY.
GOD'S CLEMENCY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEANSE YOUR SOUL.
GOD WANTS YOU HUMBLE, EDDIE.
THIS IS HIS DOING, REMEMBER.
WANTS YOU HUMBLE.
FOCUSED.
HE WON'T ALWAYS BE SO FORGIVING. HIS VENGEANCE IS GREAT--
OK-KAY-- AND THANK YOU, MR. BROCK.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR...SPIRITED REMINDER THAT WE SHOULD ALL BE GOOD TO ONE ANOTHER AT THIS TIME OF TURMOIL.


...BACK TO YOU, LINDA.
THE BEAST IS OUT THERE.
PREYING ON THE LAMBS.
SCHEMING.
CONSUMING SOULS.
ECSTATIC ABOUT ITS NEW HOST.
UP TO SOMETHING.
CLETUS KASADY--FILTHY CARNAGE--BACK AT IT AS WELL. TOXIN...
THE BEAST'S LINEAGE, PROPAGATING, SPREADING UNABATED.
HERE TO TAKE US ALL OVER.
SHNUKK
THEY ARE PUTREFYING CANCERS ON THIS WORLD...
...I AM THE CURE.
NO. NO, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG. I'M NOT IN ANY KIND OF TROUBLE.
WENT AWOL--STOLE VENOM FROM THE U.S. MILITARY.
I KNOW IT WAS JUST ALL OF A SUDDEN. I GOT THE CALL... I HAD TO GO.
CRIME-MASTER WILL KILL HER IF I FAIL.
KILL THEM ALL.
HOW IS MOM DOING?

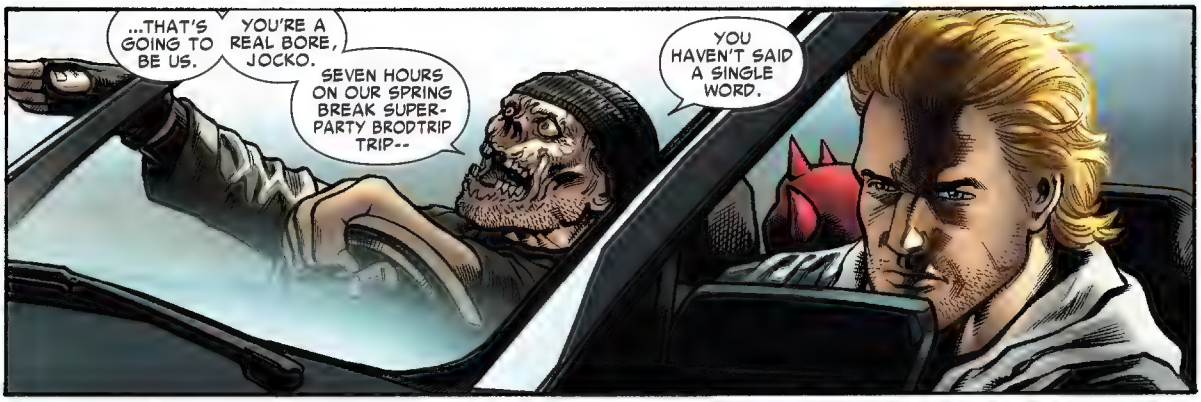
SHE'S UPSET, FLASH. SHE LOST HER HUSBAND AND HER SON ISN'T HERE TO BE WITH HER.
IF THE V.A. CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF ONE ASSIGNMENT, DAYS AFTER THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER...
IT'S TIME TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB.
I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING.
EVER SINCE I KILLED THE HIJACKER.
I HAVE TO GO.
EVER SINCE I STOPPED SLEEPING FROM REMEMBERING WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO BITE OFF A HUMAN HEAD.
I'LL CALL WHEN I CAN.
HAVEN'T TAKEN THE SUIT OFF FOR DAYS.
NOT EVEN SURE I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE ANYMORE.
NO, I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE...
I HAVE LEGS.
PRETTY BIG DIFFERENCE.
MOM'S NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE ME.
SOME HERO.
BETTY'S NOT GOING TO PUT UP WITH THIS MUCH LONGER.
JUST SO LONG AS THEY'RE SAFE...AS LONG AS I KEEP CRIME-MASTER HAPPY.
"CRIME-MASTER," STUPID FREAKIN' NAME.
ASSUMES I'LL KNOW WHAT HE WANTS IN LAS VEGAS WHEN I GET THERE.
IF I FAIL...
STICK TO THE PLAN.
BRING BACK WHATEVER HE WANTS.
GET HIM AND HIS GOONS ALL IN THE SAME ROOM, AT THE SAME TIME...

...KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM.
LOOK WHO'S UP AND WALKING.
GUESS YOU GOT YOUR FRIEND WITH YOU.
JACK-O-LANTERN!
I'M READY FOR YOU.
PHSHH
RELAX, EUGENE-- IF I WERE HERE TO KILL YOU WOULD I BE LYING ON YOUR BED WATCHING THE ROAD RUNNER PROGRAM?
I'M JUST HERE TO HELP.
WE'RE GONNA BE ROAD TRIP BUDDIES, YOU AND ME.
LITTLE ADVENTURE ON THE OPEN ROAD.

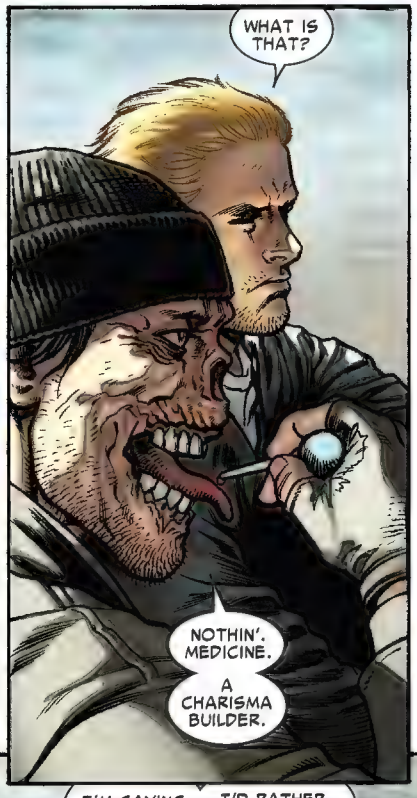
THIS WASN'T THE DEAL!
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT BLACKMAIL, NANCY-- THE DEAL IS WHATEVER WE SAY IT IS.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COLLECT.
YOU NEED ME.
IT'S GONNA BE GREAT. I MEAN, YOU'RE MY ARCHNEMESIS AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME.
WE SHOULD HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER. GAB ON LIFE.
I DON'T DRINK.
RIGHT. OLD TWELVE-STEP-THOMPSON.
SEE, I KNOW STUFF ABOUT YOU.
YOUR DAD WAS A DRINKER TOO, WASN'T HE?
DON'T EVER MENTION MY FAMILY AGAIN.
TEMPER, TEMPER.
YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL. YOU DON'T WANT THAT...THING IN THE DRIVER SEAT. BAD FOR BUSINESS.
I'D NEVER POKE FUN ABOUT YOUR DRUNK, DEAD, PIG-COP DAD.
THAT WOULD BE VERY UN-BRO-LIKE OF ME.
GO ON GET SOME REST...

"...ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME AWAITS!"
THE SOLDIER IN QUESTION IS AWOL, WHICH OBVIOUSLY WOULDN'T WARRANT MY APPROACHING THE AVENGERS.
NO. IT WOULD *NOT* WARRANT THAT.
HE'S TAKEN THE *VENOM SYMBIOTE.*
THINKS HE HAS IT UNDER CONTROL.
BUT WE KNOW HOW THAT ENDS.
I UNDERSTAND THE MISSION, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
TAKE DOWN VENOM.
SECURE THE SYMBIOTE...

"...AND BRING IN THE AWOL BRAT FOR COURT-MARTIAL."
YOU KNOW HOW IN MOST MOVIES, THE VILLAIN IS ALWAYS WA-AY MORE INTERESTING THAN THE HERO...


...THAT'S GOING TO BE US.
YOU'RE A REAL BORE, JOCKO.
SEVEN HOURS ON OUR SPRING BREAK SUPER-PARTY BRODTRIP TRIP--
YOU HAVEN'T SAID A SINGLE WORD.

IF YOU GOT TO KNOW ME, YOU MIGHT REALLY THINK I'M A PRETTY FUN, PRETTY TERRIFIC GUY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO KISS ME IN THE HOLE ON MY MOUTH.
C'MON, YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT AT LEAST ONCE.


WHAT IS THAT?
NOTHIN'. MEDICINE.
A CHARISMA BUILDER.

YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW *CHARISMA* CAN MAKE YOU FORGIVE SOMEBODY EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE A COMPLETELY UNREDEEMABLE PIECE OF GARBAGE.
CHARISMATIC PEOPLE, THEY'RE NORMALLY SCUMBAGS-- IT'S WHY THEY DEVELOP THE SKILL, TO HIDE SCUMBAGGERY.

YOU'RE NOT CHARISMATIC.
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU'RE MY ARCHNEMESIS.
I'M SAYING IT BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.
I'D RATHER LISTEN TO A.M. TALK RADIO.
SQARKK WHEN A SUPPORT BEAM COLLAPSED.

AT THE TOP OF THE HOUR, AUTHORITIES IN ELKO ARE REPORTING A CAVE-IN AT DOUGLAS MINE.
HALF A DOZEN MEN ARE STILL TRAPPED INSIDE.
NO OFFICIAL WORD ON WHAT CAUSED IT THOUGH THE COMPANY, ROXXON OIL, HAS AN ATROCIOUS SAFETY RECORD.
ROXXON WAS CONTACTED AND REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE CAVE-IN OR DIVULGE WHAT EXACTLY THEY WERE MINING FOR...
SCREEEEE
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
WE PASSED ELKO.
SO?!
THAT MINE CAVE-IN WAS IN ELKO...
ELKO
3 MILES
"...WE'RE GOING TO HELP."
TOM?
TOM, YOU STAY WITH US.
I KNOW THAT'S SOME CRAZY CLICHÉD BULL TO SAY--BUT YOU JUST DO IT.
YOU STAY AWAKE.

I-I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING BELOW MY NECK...
CAN BARELY... BREATHE...
CAN THAT GARBAGE--HEAR THEM CRANES WORKING UP THERE, TOM!
THEY'LL HAVE PARAMEDICS-- THEY CAN FIX YOU. NO QUESTION...
...THEY CAN DO AMAZING THINGS NOW.
SURE, RON... SURE...
GGRRROOOMMMM
IT'S BUCKLING...
MY GOD.
THAT FIGHT--
LAST THING I'LL EVER SAY TO HER--
--LAST WORDS--
KIDS WENT TO SLEEP CRYIN'--
GGRRROOOMMMM
THAT'S HOW I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT--
THAT'S IT--
THEIR LAST MEMORY OF ME--
KLUT

OKAY, BOYS, LET'S MOVE IT.
I'M NO EXPERT--
GRRROOMMM
BUT THIS ROOF SEEMS FAULTY.

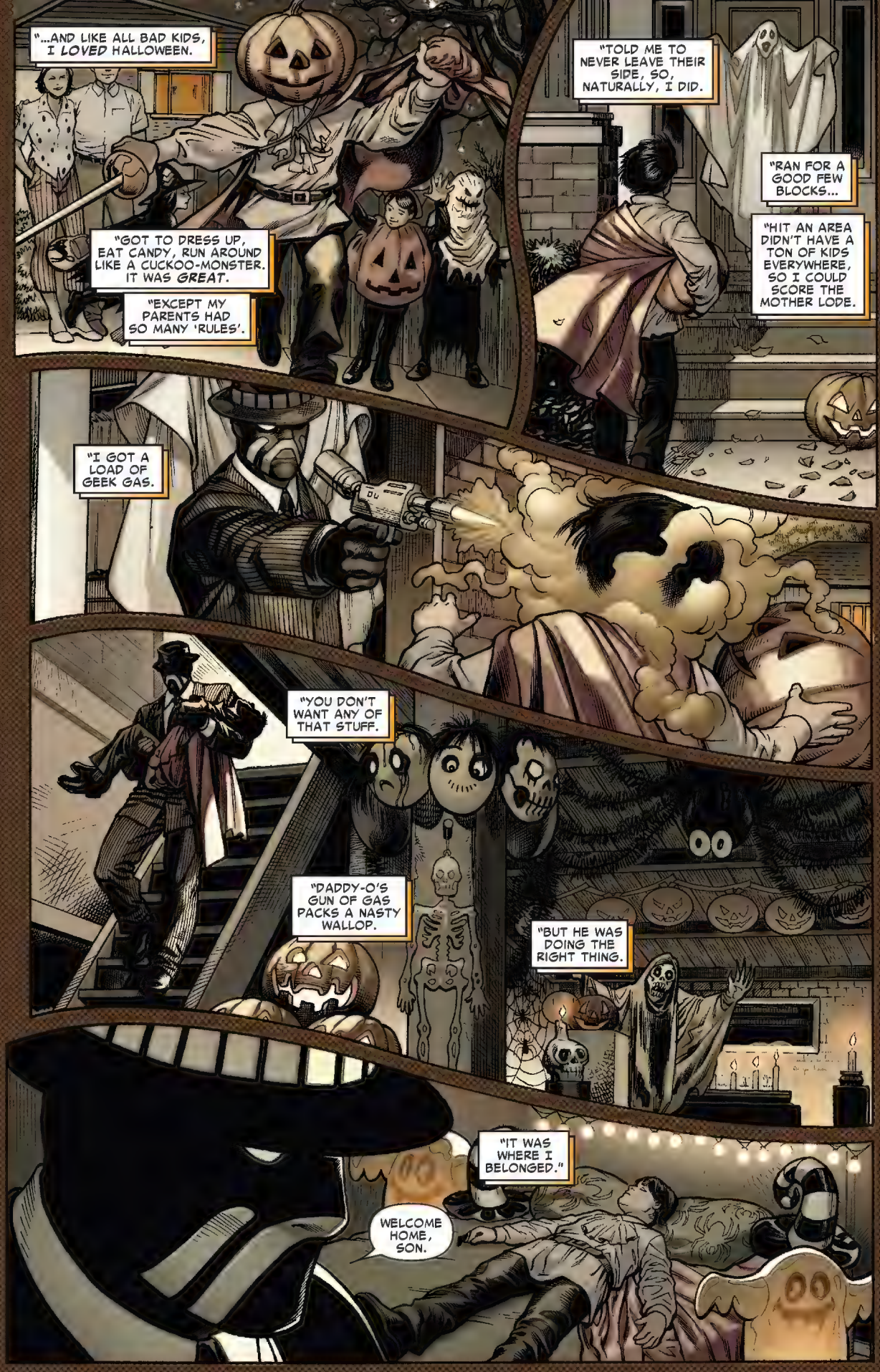
C'MON, STUPIDS! RUN!
GET TOPSIDE SO YOU CAN GO TO COLLEGE AND AVOID ENDING UP SQUASHED IN A MINE.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND HELP THEM!
I CAN'T HOLD THIS FOR LONG!
YOU BETTER. ONE OF THESE GENIUSES COULD HOLD THE CURE FOR--
SHUT UP!
I WON'T LEAVE HIM!
HE WAS PINNED WHILE SAVING THE REST OF US!
G-GET OUT OF HERE...YOU GOT...KIDS.
NO WAY THROUGH THIS...GET OUT OF HERE...
OKAY LOOK, MY BUDDY ISN'T GOING TO LET US LEAVE UNTIL YOU COME WITH US.
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU WON'T ABANDON YOUR DYING FRIEND...
IT'S A TRICKY SPOT, WHAT'S THE WORD FOR IT...?

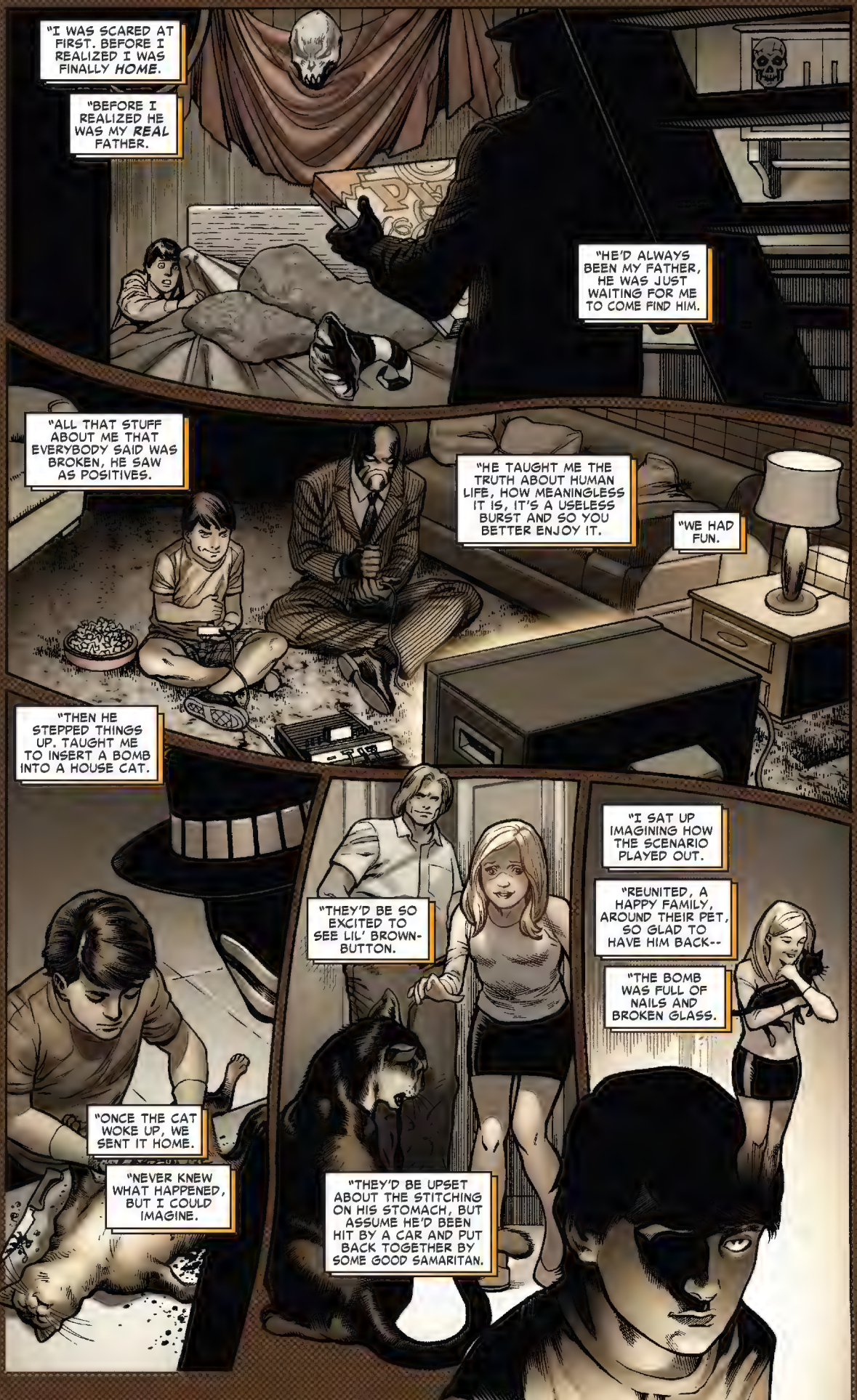
STALEMATE.
TOM!
BLAM
Y-YOU SON OF A BITCH...
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS HERO BUSINESS, VENOM...
"...FEELS TERRIFIC!"
HERE THEY COME!
EXCUSE ME, SIR, LINDA SELBY, NEWS STATION 7, YOU TWO ARE HEROES, YOU'VE SAVED DOZENS OF LIVES TODAY. WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE JUST A COUPLE OF SWEET, ROAD TRIP BROS WHO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE KILLER TIMES TO TRIP BRAINS LISTENING TO PHISH JAM ALBUMS IN A CAVE.
BUT THAT UPTIGHT MINE OUTRIGHT REJECTED THE TERRIBLE SOUNDS AND BEGAN TO IMPLODE IN PROTEST!
WHAT ARE YOU THE COPS? GET THAT CAMERA OUT OF MY FACE! THE COSMOS GUARANTEES MY RIGHTS!
SWAKK

SEE THE MIND OF JOHN WAYNE!
THE MOUNTAINS ARE DIGITAL!
NONE OF YOU DESERVE SERIAL NUMBERS!
YOU SHOT THAT MAN IN COLD BLOOD.
THAT WAS A MERCY KILLING. HE WOULD'VE DIED ANYWAY. I SAVED HIS FRIEND.
I'M A HERO.
SOMETIMES BEING A HERO MEANS MAKING THE TOUGH CHOICES.
LIKE WHEN YOU KILLED THE SCIENTIST IN NROSVEKISTAN.
QUIT BEING SO PIOUS.
AND PULL OVER AT THE FIRST FOOD HOLE YOU SEE...
"... ALL THIS HEROING HAS ME FAMISHED."
JO LOPES Roadside DINER

YOU KNOW WHAT I DON'T GET ABOUT YOU?
YOU GO FIGHT A WAR, GET YOUR LEGS BLOWN OFF FOR NOTHING, GET HOME, START PUTTING A LIFE TOGETHER...
AND WHEN UNCLE SAM NEEDS SOMEBODY TO DO SOME MORE CRAZY NONSENSE, YOUR HAND IS THE FIRST TO BE RAISED.
THAT AIN'T HEROIC...
...THAT'S SADO-MASOCHISTIC.
WHERE'S THAT WAITRESS...?
HEY-HEY.
CAN I GET YOU BOYS STARTED WITH SOM--
MEN
I-I'M SORRY, MY MIND IS A MILLION MILES AWAY.
SO...UM... WHAT'LL YOU BOYS HAVE?
SHOCKED YOU A LITTLE, DIDN'T IT?
GABYIDY-GOOBITY!
A REAL TRASH-MESS I GOT FOR A FACE, RIGHT?
NO, ANGEL, HEAVENS NO. I'M SORRY, I DON'T THINK THAT...

WHEN YOU WALKED UP I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, THERE IS A WOMAN WHO LIKES HASHED BROWN 'TATERS.
YOU WEREN'T BORN LIKE THAT. YOU JUST LIKE CAKES AND PIES. WHO DOESN'T?
I WASN'T BORN THIS WAY EITHER.
THIS JERK RIGHT HERE PUT A GRENADE IN MY FACE. TRUE STORY.
I'M SORRY, WANDA, IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?
WELL, ME AND MY FRIEND HERE WERE GOING TO EAT SOME OF THE "FOOD" YOU "COOK" IN THIS PIT, BUT LOOKING AT THE STATE OF YOU...MY WAIST IS HOPING I TAKE A PASS.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT, THEN I INVITE YOU TO LEAVE.
FORGIVE MY... "FRIEND."
HE'S GOT SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE; HE'S THE POSTER CHILD FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME. HE LITERALLY IS.
WE'LL TAKE TWO GRANDDADDY BREAKFAST PLATES, A COUPLE COFFEES AND CALL IT A DAY.
SCRAMBLED EGGS.
YOU HAVE TO SPREAD NASTINESS AND TAKE A DUMP ON ANYONE YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH?
ROUGH CHILDHOOD.
BOO-HOO.
SEE, TO YOU, I'M JUST A REALLY NEAT GUY, WITH REALLY COOL WEAPONS, SEXY BUTT, AND A REALLY BOSS MASK.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEHIND ALL THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR?
THERE BETTER NOT BE BUTTER IN THIS.
YEAH, OKAY. TELL ME YOUR STORY.
ANYTHING THAT'LL KEEP YOUR MOUTH POINTED AWAY FROM THE STAFF.
I WAS NEVER A GREAT KID. I HURT SMALL ANIMALS, LIED, AND DISOBEYED MY PARENTS.
I'M A PSYCHO. IT'S WHAT I AM...

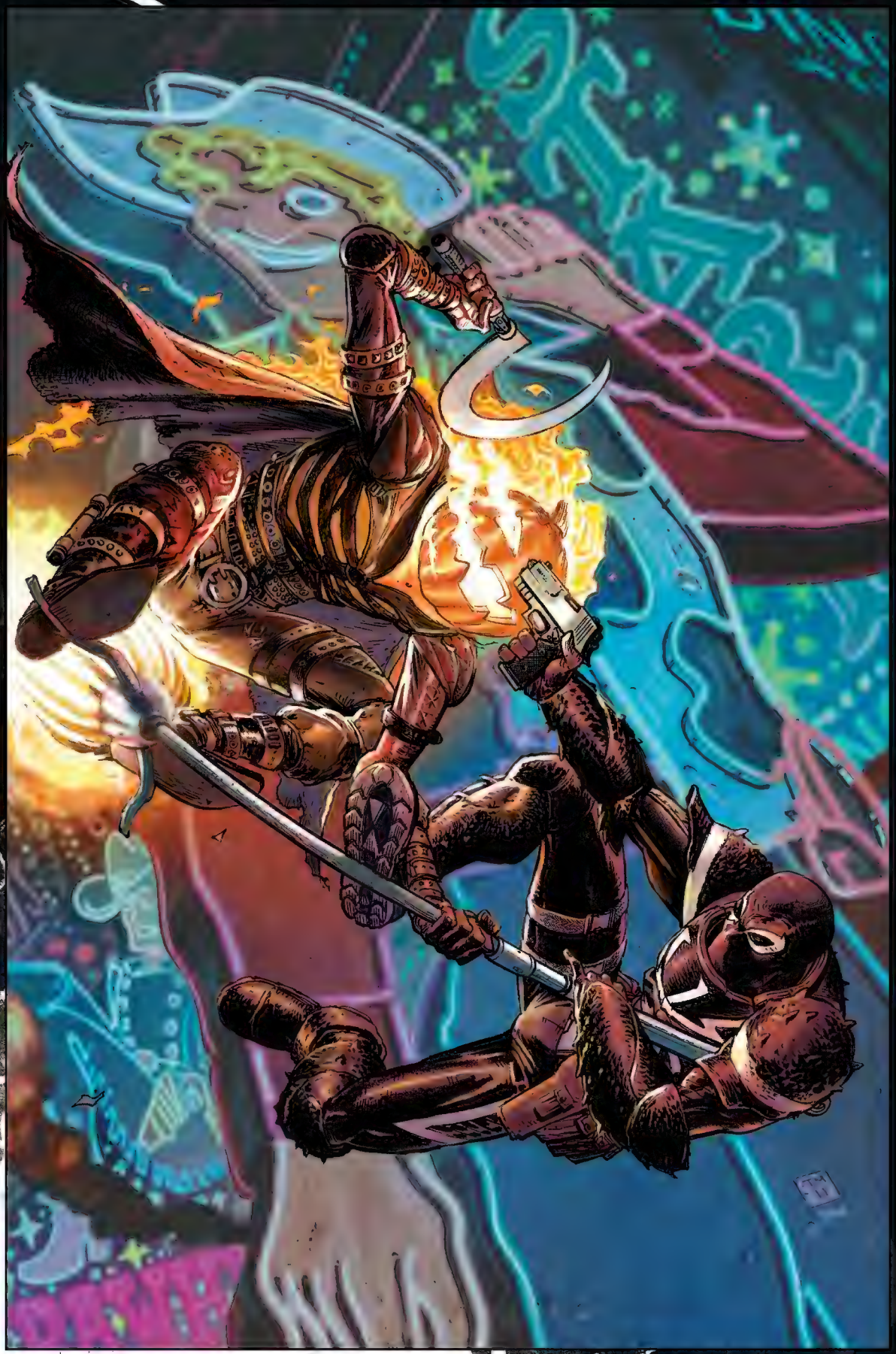

"...AND LIKE ALL BAD KIDS, I LOVED HALLOWEEN.
"GOT TO DRESS UP, EAT CANDY, RUN AROUND LIKE A CUCKOO-MONSTER. IT WAS GREAT.
"EXCEPT MY PARENTS HAD SO MANY 'RULES'.
"TOLD ME TO NEVER LEAVE THEIR SIDE, SO, NATURALLY, I DID.
"RAN FOR A GOOD FEW BLOCKS...
"HIT AN AREA DIDN'T HAVE A TON OF KIDS EVERYWHERE, SO I COULD SCORE THE MOTHER LODE.
"I GOT A LOAD OF GEEK GAS.
"YOU DON'T WANT ANY OF THAT STUFF.
"DADDY-O'S GUN OF GAS PACKS A NASTY WALLOP.
"BUT HE WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING.
"IT WAS WHERE I BELONGED."
WELCOME HOME, SON.


"I WAS SCARED AT FIRST. BEFORE I REALIZED I WAS FINALLY HOME.
"BEFORE I REALIZED HE WAS MY REAL FATHER.
"HE'D ALWAYS BEEN MY FATHER, HE WAS JUST WAITING FOR ME TO COME FIND HIM.
"ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT ME THAT EVERYBODY SAID WAS BROKEN, HE SAW AS POSITIVES.
"HE TAUGHT ME THE TRUTH ABOUT HUMAN LIFE, HOW MEANINGLESS IT IS, IT'S A USELESS BURST AND SO YOU BETTER ENJOY IT.
"WE HAD FUN.
"THEN HE STEPPED THINGS UP. TAUGHT ME TO INSERT A BOMB INTO A HOUSE CAT.
"I SAT UP IMAGINING HOW THE SCENARIO PLAYED OUT.
"THEY'D BE SO EXCITED TO SEE LIL' BROWN-BUTTON.
"REUNITED, A HAPPY FAMILY, AROUND THEIR PET, SO GLAD TO HAVE HIM BACK--
"THE BOMB WAS FULL OF NAILS AND BROKEN GLASS.
"ONCE THE CAT WOKE UP, WE SENT IT HOME.
"NEVER KNEW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I COULD IMAGINE.
"THEY'D BE UPSET ABOUT THE STITCHING ON HIS STOMACH, BUT ASSUME HE'D BEEN HIT BY A CAR AND PUT BACK TOGETHER BY SOME GOOD SAMARITAN.

"HE TRAINED ME, MADE ME THE WORLD'S GREATEST ASSASSIN.
"I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE PROBABLY THROW AROUND THAT TITLE, BUT I REALLY AM THE BEST. I'M A NATURAL.
"AND ALL HE ASKED IN RETURN IS THAT I LOVE HIM LIKE A FATHER AND ALWAYS SHOW LOYALTY.
"HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REMAINING ALLIANCE TO MY GENETIC PARENTS.
"YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THEIR FACES WHEN I WALKED UP.
"IT WAS WHILE I WAS KILLING MY MOTHER THAT I THOUGHT UP MY PARTICULAR SIGNATURE.
"HER BRAINS... THEY WERE MY FIRST.
"S'FUNNY-- IT WAS SO QUIET. SO QUICK..."
ANYWAY, SPENT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS GOING AROUND AND KILLING EVERY OTHER JOKER WHO'D EVER USED A JACK O'LANTERN OUTFIT.
THE PERSONA WAS TOO COOL TO BE SO MISUSED BY THOSE LOSERS. HAD TO CLEAN THE BRAND UP.
GONNA GO USE THE CAN. QUEASY STOMACH.
GREASY FOOD JUST GOES RIGHT THROUGH ME.
WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
WORKING FOR THE BAD GUYS.
AND THE BAD GUYS ARE INSANE.

THIS IS TOO MUCH.
NEED TO GET HELP.
CAPTAIN AMERICA, SPIDER-MAN...
TURN MYSELF IN.
SHOULD'VE DONE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...BUT THEY WOULD'VE TAKEN THE SUIT...
CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
BETTY IS COUNTING ON ME TO--NO, THAT'S ALL CRAP.
NO MORE LIES--
THE TRUTH IS--
I NEED IT.
CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT.
DEAL WITH IT AFTER I DEAL WITH THEM.
JUST HOLD IT TOGETHER--
GET THEM ALL IN THE SAME ROOM AND--
YOU READY?
C'MON, WE'RE ON A CLOCK, TIME TO ROLL. I TOOK CARE OF THE CHECK.
HMM? YEAH... OKAY.
SURE HOPE YOU LEFT THAT POOR WOMAN A GOOD TIP.
WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF ASS?

"DON'T WORRY...
"...I TOOK GOOD CARE OF 'EM."



Las Vegas, Nevada.
DEVIL'S DEN CASINO RESORT TOILET--
THE PARTY HAS ARRIVED!
CRAPS... LOVES ME SOME CRAPS...
WHOOP!
WHAT THE--?!
SCUM--!
RENEGADE ALWAYS HIC LEAVES THE LADIES DOUSED.
BRING YOU LOSERS SOME LUCK--
HA HA HA!
SNAKE EYES, HOSS!
DEALER WINS!
C'MON, YA DRUNK, LET'S MOVE.

YOU PICKED THE WRONG CASINO TO PULL THIS CRAP IN, DESERT RAT.
LESS YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR THE PLACE TO GET YOUR WRISTS BROKE.
--YOU MONKEYS *HIC* COOLED MY STREAK--
BUT I'M FEELING HOT AGAIN.
HEY--! WHAT THE--
SYMBIOTE'S UPSET.
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE SETTING IT OFF.
KWOKK
GAKK--
TAKES EVERY BIT OF CONCENTRATION TO CONTROL IT.
WHATEVER IT IS CRIME-MASTER HAS ME PICKING UP...
TWUP
...VENOM DOESN'T LIKE IT.
I'M IN.
CONGRATS. GET MOVING.
LANTERN'S VOICE LEAVES ME FURIOUS.

THE KIND OF FURIOUS THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING STUPID.
TAPPED INTO THE SECURITY CAMERA. BEEN WATCHING YOUR PERFORMANCE.
YOU DO A BETTER DRUNK THAN NIC CAGE.
OSCAR WORTHY.
THE LABORATORY IS ON THE 89TH FLOOR...
Planet
...CALL WHEN YOU GET THERE.
TOO MANY MISTAKES.
COMPROMISED... ALLOWED VENOM TO BOND WITH ME.
TAKE IT OUT ON SOMEONE.
DONE BEING SCREWED WITH.
KILL THEM ALL.
NO OTHER WAY.
DONE BEING PLAYED LIKE A PUNK BY THESE IDIOTS.
HOWDY.
CRUSH SOMEONE'S SKULL IN.
PAST FEW WEEKS--AS BAD AS IT GETS.
'SUP, ANDRE?
KIND OF BAD DOESN'T LEAVE MANY REASONS TO KEEP GOING.
UNTIL I FACTOR IN THE DANGER MY ACTIONS HAVE LEFT MY FAMILY IN.
JUST LIKE MY OLD MAN AFTER ALL.
TRAPPED.

TRAPPED WITH NO WAY OUT.
THE RAGE FEEDS MY SYMBIOTE.
GHAA--
THE RAGE MAKES IT STRONG.
IT CHOSE ME--
--KNOWS I NEED IT--
KNOWS MY THOUGHTS.
DISTORTS PERCEPTIONS.
THERE IS NO CONTROLLING IT.
GIVES ME WHAT I NEED TO PLOW THESE BASTARDS OVER.
PAY THEM BACK FOR THE WAY THEY'VE TREATED ME.
GRRGHAGHAHA!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA THE BEAST THEY'VE AWOKEN...
...THEY WILL.
INFORM MR. DEGLI. WHOEVER GOT IN THAT ELEVATOR DISABLED THE CAMERA--WE'VE GOT TROUBLE COMING.
I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA...
WHERE IS HE GOING?
"...AND WE BETTER HOPE HE DOESN'T GET IN."
DING!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'VE GOT IN THERE, BUT WHATEVER IT IS--

GRAWWK!
PNG
WNG
SKN
PNG
PNG
--SHOOT TO KILL!
BLAP BLAP BLAP
BLAP BLAP BLAP
LORD!
YERAGHH!
MOTHER OF--

--PLEASE!
DARKNESS--
COMFORT.
SOMETHING IN MY SYSTEM...
YEAG--
SKRUKK
...A REWARD...
AN OPIATE...
...THE SYMBIOTE PUTTING ME TO SLEEP.
BLOOM
SON OF A--

SSSSMMELLSSS... WWE DON'T LIKE IIT.
THOMPSON, YOU THERE?!
LIBSSURPER-- HEERE
WWE WWILLL KKILL IIT.
COMPETITION FFOR WHHAT ISS COOMINNG.
ONLLY ONNE CCAN DOMINNATE THISS WORRLD--
--NNOTT BBE THISS WHHELP.
TOXIN MUSST DDIE!
SKREEE!

EUGENE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
KRASHH
HEY-- ANSWER ME!
SKREEE!
GGRAWRK!
THOMPSON!
BOOOM
WWE KKILL ITT NOWW!

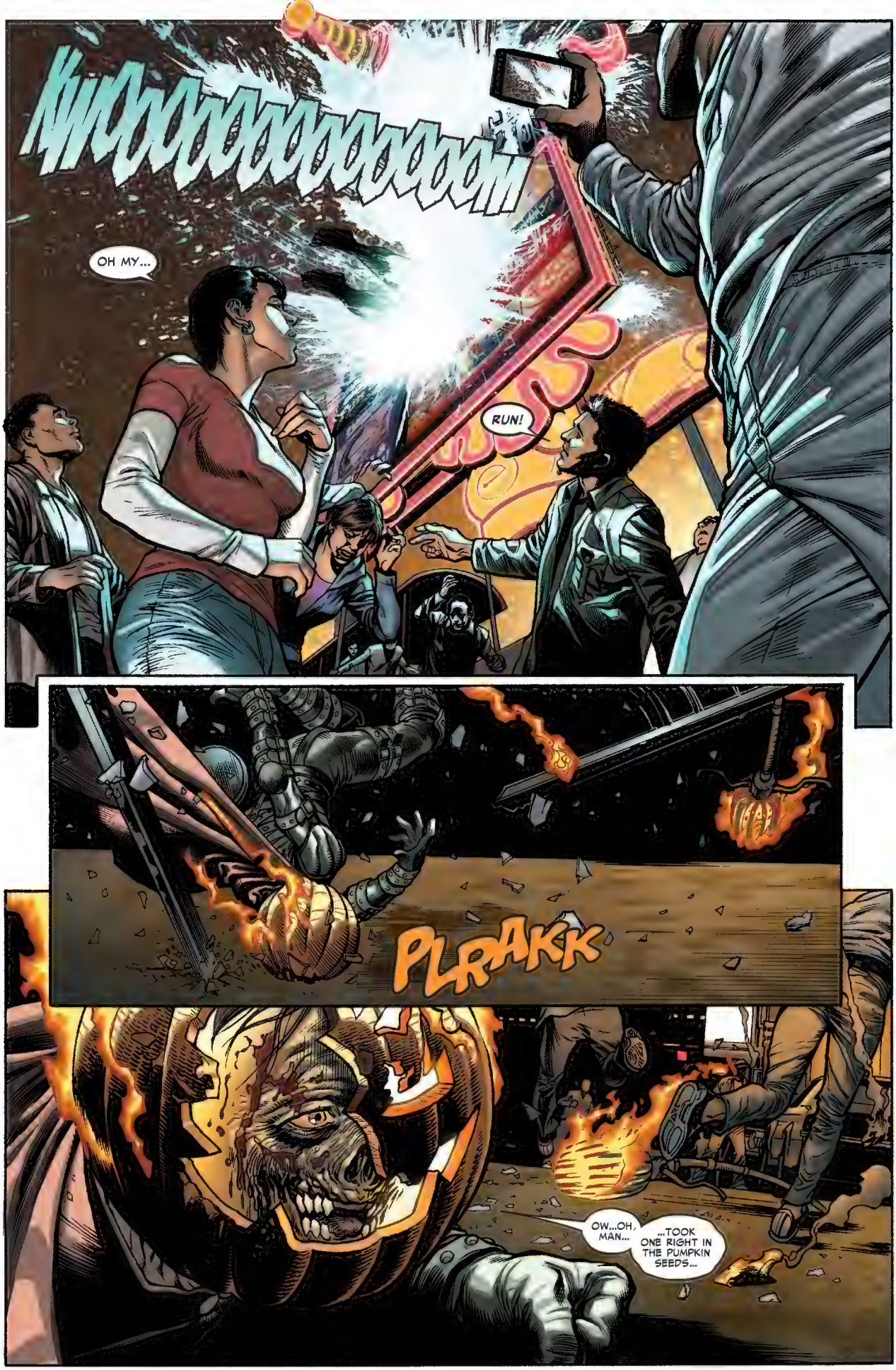
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
KRASHH
GAZAAT
YOU RECOGNIZE WE'RE IN BREACH OF CONTRACT?
DO YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY DONE EXECUTION STYLE?
WWE MMUSST KKKIILLL IIT!
OH, C'MON, MAN--

SHREEH
THIS WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN!
GHRAAWWWAKK!

WE'RE DONE BEIN' FRIENDLY, YOU AN' ME.
WE'RE BACK TO THAT "LET'S KILL EACH OTHER" PHASE.
DADDY-O, YOU WATCHING THIS JIVE ASS IDIOT BUSINESS?
THOMPSON'S LOST CONTROL OF VENOM--
--IT'S GOING THROUGH SOME KIND OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTE--TRYING TO KILL THE TOXIN SYMBIOTE.
DO YOU HAVE THE TOXIN SYMBIOTE ON YOUR PERSON, JACK?
YES, SIR, I DO.
WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?
SON...

...I ADVISE YOU TO RUN.
GHAHH--!
SHRNKK

THWIPP
ROGER THAT.
GOING TO FIND YOUR PRECIOUS BETTY.
GOING TO CUT OUT HER BRAINS FOR THIS.
YOU IN THERE, EUGENE?
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
GET THAT UGLY THING THE-HELL-UNDER CONTROL AND I'LL LEAVE HER ALONE. I'LL--
--OH, MOTHER--


OH MY...
RUN!
PLRAKK
OW...OH, MAN...
...TOOK ONE RIGHT IN THE PUMPKIN SEEDS...

AKK--
BOOOOM
THOMPSON, IF YOU'RE IN THERE, YOU LISTEN TO ME.
YOU LISTEN CAREFUL.
YOU GET THIS SON OF A BITCH UNDER CONTROL OR MY DAD IS GONNA KILL YOUR MOM.
BOOOOM

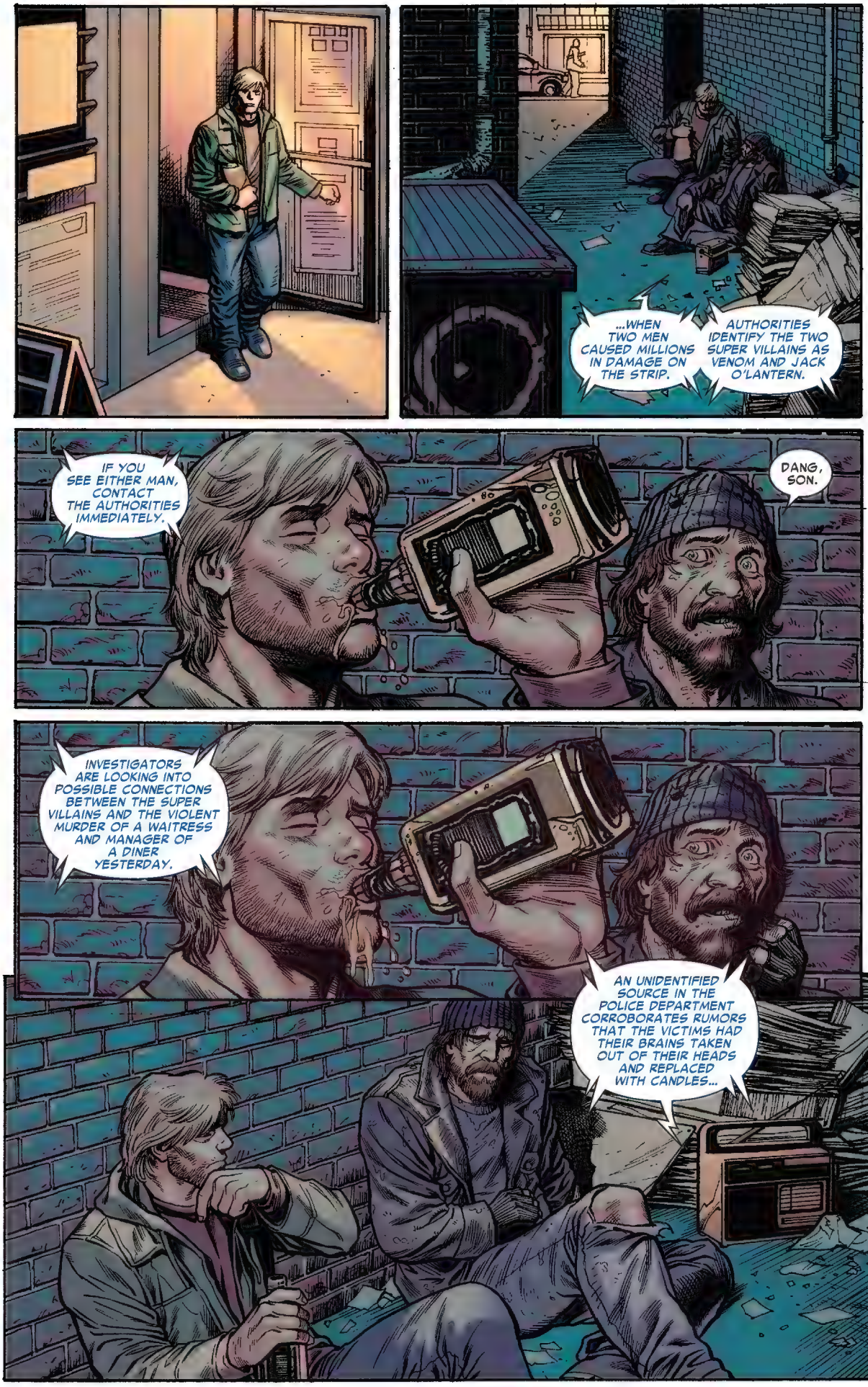
THINK!
HE'S A SUPER BAD GUY.
HE'LL REALLY DO IT!
GOOD.
GOOD BOY.
I KNOW YOU WEREN'T IN CONTROL OF ANY OF THIS, EUGENE.
AND YOU GOT IT UNDER WRAPS AT THE END THERE.

MAKE YOU A DEAL; YOU LEAVE MY FAMILY ALONE...
I'LL LEAVE *YOUR* FAMILY ALONE.
PARK

AND HEY, DO YOURSELF A FAVOR--*HAVE A DRINK!*
YOU'RE ALL WOUND UP.

"YES. I KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS..."

AP
AP
...JUST PUT HER ON THE PHONE, MOM.
BETTY?
BETTY, LISTEN TO ME.
STOP TALKING--I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
DO IT.
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOUR NEEDS AND THIS JOB.
NO-- YOU'VE BEEN GREAT--
--IT DOESN'T MATTER.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR HEAD...
...WE'RE THROUGH.

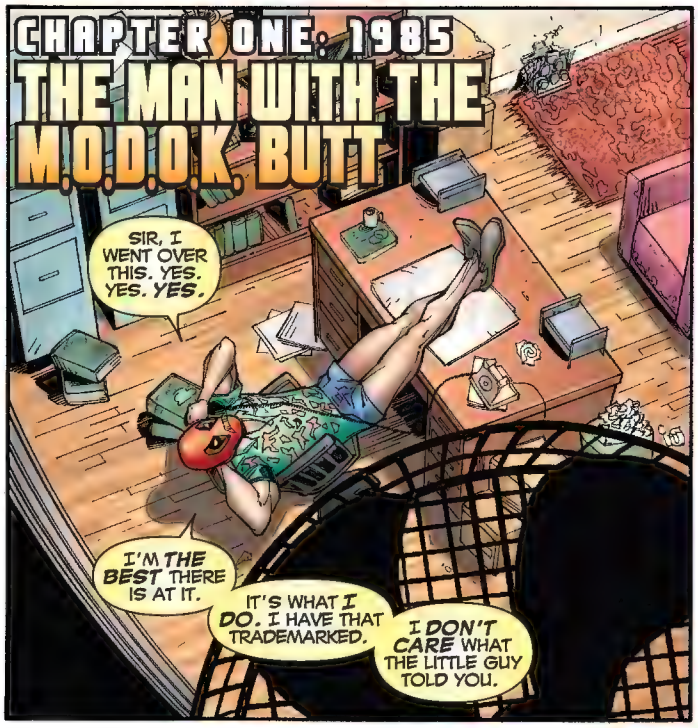

...WHEN TWO MEN CAUSED MILLIONS IN DAMAGE ON THE STRIP.
AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY THE TWO SUPER VILLAINS AS VENOM AND JACK O'LANTERN.
IF YOU SEE EITHER MAN, CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY.
DANG, SON.
INVESTIGATORS ARE LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE SUPER VILLAINS AND THE VIOLENT MURDER OF A WAITRESS AND MANAGER OF A DINER YESTERDAY.
AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CORROBORATES RUMORS THAT THE VICTIMS HAD THEIR BRAINS TAKEN OUT OF THEIR HEADS AND REPLACED WITH CANDLES...

...POINTING TO A CONNECTION WITH THE JACK O'LANTERN SERIAL KILLER.
HARD TIMES.
WE'RE GETTING USED TO IT.

...YOU GET A BREAK! I'LL GIVE YOU A SHINER, MARRY!
HAHA HAHAHA HAHA
YOU'D HAVE TO DROP THIRTY POUNDS JUST TO GET OFF THE COUCH, PAUL.
HAHA HAHAHA HAHA
WHUMP
'SCUSE ME.
YOU AIN'T GOT A CAR, WE AIN'T GOT NO BUSINESS.
WHICH WAY IS LAS VEGAS AND HOW FAR?
JUST KEEP HEADIN' WEST.
FOLLOW THE ROUTE 66.
BUT IF YER WALKIN', IT'LL TAKE YOU A BIT.
I'M NOT WALKING.
To Be Continued...

Venom/Deadpool: What If?

GREETINGS. I AM BOY WATCHER OF EARTH 615.9, THE MOST IMPORTANT, MOST PERTINENT EARTH IN THE EVERDIMENSIONS.
THAT 616 DIMENSION YOU'VE ALL BEEN FOCUSED ON IS A DUD, A REAL PILE.
THIS IS THE EARTH THAT YOU WERE INTENDED TO WATCH, UATU THE PILL POPPER SET HIS VIEW DIAL A BIT OFF... I THINK HE DID IT TO HURT ME, TO MAKE ME CRY.
NOW, PREPARE YOUR SOFT, DRUG ADDLED, MIND FOR A JOURNEY INTO--
THE MOST INCREDIBLE STORY EVER TOLD!
THE STORY OF A MAN WHO LEARNED THE TRUE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A SUPER HERO--
HE WOULD BECOME THE MASTER OF AFFECTING LASTING CHANGE ACROSS ALL CONTINUITY!


CHAPTER ONE: 1985
THE MAN WITH THE M.O.D.O.K. BUTT
SIR, I WENT OVER THIS. YES. YES. YES.
I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT IT.
IT'S WHAT I DO. I HAVE THAT TRADEMARKED.
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE LITTLE GUY TOLD YOU.

EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF COSMIC DEITY DO YOU NEED KILLED?
HMM? TOTALLY. I'VE ASSASSINATED A BUNCH OF THOSE. FOR SURE.
IF YOU'VE GOT MONEY, THERE'S NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO--

GREETINGS, AMOEBA! PREPARE TO--
GHA! YOUR SHORT-SHORTS! SO... TIGHT--THEY LEAVE LITTLE TO THE IMAGINATION OF YOUR NEW MASTER-- GALACTUS!
WELL, I'D LOSE 'EM, BOSS, BUT I'M SORT OF GOING COMMANDO, SO...
ENOUGH! ASSISTANT! PRESENT THIS INSECT TURD THE PARTICULARS OF HIS ASSIGNMENT!
YOU MUST KILL-- THE BEYONDER!
OKAY. WOW. THE BEYONDER...
YOU KNOW OF HIM?
NO, BUT THE WAY YOU YELLED HIS NAME, I ASSUME HE'S GOTTA BE A PRET-TY MEAN CUSTOMER.
THE BEYONDER IS AN OMNIPOTENT SPACE DEITY POWERED BY THE COSMIC JHERI CURL WHO HAS TAKEN HUMAN FORM, LEAVING HIM VULNERABLE.
WOW. AND ON A WHITE DUDE...BRAVE STATEMENT.
THE BEYONDER PLAYED A...PRACTICAL JOKE ON LORD GALACTUS, MERGING A M.O.D.O.K. ONTO HIS--
SILENCE!
GALACTUS IS CONFUSED AND ALARMED OF THE FEELINGS BROUGHT ON BY YOUR SHORT-SHORTS!
NAME YOUR PRICE AND BE GONE!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING? DO WE HAVE GUESTS?
I WANT THE CONTINUITY CUBE!
IT WOULD GRANT YOU ABSOLUTE RELEVANCY! YOU WOULD GREATLY AFFECT THE LIVES OF EVERY POPULAR HERO ON EARTH THUS MATTERING MORE THAN ANY OTHER REGARDLESS OF THE QUALITY OF YOUR DEEDS!
IT IS A DEAL. GIVE HIM THE WEAPON.
THIS IS THE RETCON EXPUNGIFIER. IT IS CAPABLE OF TOTALLY ERASING THE BEYONDER BY CHANGING HIS HISTORY TO SUIT YOUR WILL.
GOOD DEAL. I'LL JUST GO HOME AND GET MY STUFF AND THEN YOU CAN TELL ME--

...WHERE TO FIND HIM.
THE JOB STINKS FROM GO.
THE DAME WITH THE FIERY TATTERS, HER EYES...A MESSAGE BURIED DOWN DEEP.
...A WARNING.
DANCE PACIF
BUT THE MAN WITH THE M.O.D.O.K. ASS HAS THE KEY. SO I PLAY.
BOUNCERS GET IN MY WAY. THEY SHOULD'VE TAKEN FRANKIE'S ADVICE.
FOCUS, WORK THE VARIABLES.
EXIT
DOZEN OF ROADS LEAD TO SIDEWAYS.
ONLY ONE LEADS TO PAYOUT.
THE STINK OF HIGH DOLLAR CHAMPAGNE AND DRAKAR NOIR--THE STORY IN A FLASH.
THE GEEK'S DRUNK AND HORNY FOR TACKY TRIM.
DISTRACTED. GUARD DOWN.
HEY, DUDER, THAT'S SOME KIND OF RADICAL OUTFIT.
HIS JHERI CURLS... SO BEAUTIFUL... SO PERFECT...
NO.
EYE ON THE PRIZE. ONE SHOT.
ONE CHANCE TO KILL THE BEYONDER.
WHOA... NO NEED FOR VIOLENCE.
JOIN US. PARTY.
THE CHAMPAGNE IS COLD--BUT THE LADIES ARE HOT!
MY OPEN TURNS TO A PUDDLE.
MUST... COMPLY.
MUST...PARTY... HARDILY...

LATER...
WHAT SAY WE TAKE THIS PARTY TO MY PAD?
BITCH'N!
THE NIGHT IS FLAWLESS.
SIMPLY BEING IN HIS COMPANY... THE BLISS IS UNADULTERATED.
IS THAT--HEY, YOU'RE BOBBY OCEANIC!
AT YOUR SERVICE.
I LOVED HIS SONG ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN PRINCESS SO MUCH I HIRED HIM TO DRIVE US AROUND AND SING IT!
NAGGING VOICE IN THE BACKGROUND...
RUN. GET AWAY. IT'S A TRICK.
BUT BOBBY OCEANIC, THESE GIRLS, THESE LUXURIOUS JHERI CURLS--IT'S NO TRICK.
IT'S A TREAT.
CARIBBEAN PRINCESS, NOW WE'RE SHARING THE SAME THING. AND OUR HEARTS THEY BEAT AS TWO. NO MORE LOVE WHILE RUNNING...
DON'T BOGART THE BUBBLY, MY BFF!
TAKE A CHILL PILL, PLENTY FOR ALL.
KRASHH
OOF-!
YOU MONSTER!

Y-YOU! YOU LEAD ME TO THIS EVIL SYMBIOTE JUMPSUIT!
MOST DEFINITELY. IT'S FULLY LEGIT.
LEGIT?! I CAN'T GET THE DAMNED THING OFF!
WHATCHU TALKIN' BOUT, SPIDER-MAN?!
EASY, MAN. THIS IS THE OTHER THING I PAY BOBBY OCEANIC FOR...
HEY, SPIDER-MAN!
GET INTO MY DREAMS--
"--AND GET OUT OF MY CAR!"
GHA--!
ZASSHHOOOOOM
SAVE ME, LORD MEPHISTO!
YOU ROCK A STRANGE AND BEWILDERING LIFE, BEYONDER. SEXY AND DANGEROUS. I LIKE IT.
WADE! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!
RIGHT. LAST TIME I FELL FOR THAT, YOU KEISTERED ME WITH A CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE.

SPORK
TUBULAR! THAT THING HAS BONDED WITH YOU, CREATING A NEW SUPER COOL ANTI-HERO WITH WICKED SENTIENT JHERI CURLS--THAT IS ONE PRIMO OUTFIT!
I COULD DO WITHOUT THE JAGGED TEETH AND FLICKING TONGUE, SORT SCREAMS "HEAD SHOP EMPLOYEE TATTOO"...
SURE, BUT ON THE UPSIDE, I BET THOSE DUDES WOULD TOTALLY GIVE YOU A 10% DISCOUNT ON PARAPHERNALIA.
YOU'RE RIGHT! I COULD GET ALL KINDS OF DISCOUNTS AT ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT SHOPS AROUND TOWN!
IT'S ALL HAPPENING! ALL YOUR DREAMS ARE COMING TRUE!
TO MERRIMENT!
A GREAT LESSON WAS LEARNED BY OUR HERO THAT DAY...
WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSE TO PARTY.

YO! WELCOME BACK TO THE 615.9! THE DOPEST EARTH IN ALL THE EVERDIMENSIONS!
YA'LL BEEN READING ABOUT THAT SKEAZY 616* EARTH, RIGHT? I CAN SMELL ITS STRAIGHT FRAUDULENCE ALL OVER YOU.
ACCEPT NO FURTHER WACKNESS! THIS DIMENSION IS DOWN WITH O.P.P., ACROSS ALL TIME AND SPACE!
*616 IS THE WAY HARDCORE MARVEL FANS REFER TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, AND I DIE A LITTLE EVERY TIME THEY DO. --TOM BREVOORT.
"WE FIND OUR FOOLS HAVING HIT HARD TIMES AFTER TOO MANY YEARS LIVING THE LOCO PARTY LIFESTYLE.
"AN' SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, AFTER KNOCKING HIM OFF THE WAGON, THEY PICKED UP TONY STARK..."
I LOVE YOU, GUYS ÷HIC÷ SERBIOUSLY, YOU GUYS'RE LIKE ÷HIC÷ MY BEST FRIENDS ÷HIC÷ PARTY FOREVER TOGETHER ÷HIC÷ ALL WE NEED IS EACH OTHER ÷HIC÷
HERE ÷HIC÷ HERE ÷HIC÷ HERE YOU GO, ÷BURP÷
GHA! YOUR BREATH...TACO MIX, SHARPIE MARKER AND KITTY LITTER!
THE SMELL... IT HAS BROUGHT ON A MOMENT OF CLARITY.
HIGH HORSE
YOUR DRUNKEN SINCERITY HAS LOST ITS CHARM, STARK.
AND VENOMPOOL, THOUGH WE'VE SHARED A FEW PLEASANT ADVENTURES, YOUR CAPERING CEASES TO AMUSE ME.
MY TALENTS ARE WASTED HERE, LIVING IN THIS ALLEYWAY WITH YOU TWO.
IT IS TIME THAT I, THE BEYONDER, GO BACK INTO THE WORLD.
WHAT? WE MADE AN OATH! WE SWORE TO KEEP IT REAL!
I'M WEARY OF REALNESS. I MUST RETURN TO PROMINENCE. BY ODIN'S TAINT, MARK MY WORDS--
I WILL BE RELEVANT AGAIN!
CHAPTER TWO: 1993
STRAIGHT OUTTA SECRET WARS XII

THIS WHOLE HOBO CHIC THING WAS THE BEYONDER'S IDEA! I'LL KILL HIM!
WHERE IS THAT GUN GALACTUS GAVE ME, THAT RETCON EXPUNGIFIER...
IT CRASHES DOWN AROUND ME.
The freak's magic finally gone.
WE SOLD THE RETCON EXPUNGIFIER -HIC- ALONG WITH MY ARMOR -HIC- FOR A NEW HUFFING RAG -HIC- 'CEPT I KEPT ONE GLOVE -HIC- STILL IRON MAN, STILL IN CONTROL...
ON TOP OF THE WORLD, MA.
FINALLY FREE OF THE BEYONDER.
The ten-year nightmare-- over.
HE USED US! OUR LIVES HAVE FESTERED WHILE WE ENABLED HIS PARTYING!
I'LL SHOW HIM! I'LL BECOME FAR MORE RELEVANT! ALL I NEED TO GET BACK ON MY FEET IS START-UP MONEY!
BUT WHERE CAN A HOMELESS HOBO PROCURE SUCH FUNDING...
BROSEPH?
ROT GUT
LATER...
SERIOUSLY UNCOOL, MAN! WE WERE PARTY BROS! WE WERE GONNA PARTY FOREVER!
HEY, THANKS AGAIN! REMEMBER, WE AT A.I.M. BUY ANY GENIUS WEAPON DESIGNERS YOU HAVE LYING AROUND.
I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.
Advanced Idea Mechanics SECRET HQ

"AND WIT DAT, VENOMPOOL BOUGHT A DOPE PAD, GOT CLEAN, PUT HIS LIFE TOGETHER.
"BUT THE SCRILLA RAISED FROM SELLING TONY STARK TO A.I.M. SOON RAN OUT. IT WAS TIME FOR HIM TO FIND A REAL JOB.
SOLD
"TO BE A REAL HERO.
"BUT HE WOULD SOON DISCOVER THE WORLD WAS A COLD AND INDIFFERENT PLACE WHERE PREJUDICE WAS STILL RAMPANT...
I'M SORRY...THE FANTASTIC FOUR SIMPLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR SOMEONE, WELL...SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
LIKE ME?
THIS TEAM DOESN'T HIRE THE BECURLED.
C'MON, I'LL DO ANYTHING. I'LL FIGHT WHOEVER YOU WANT! I'LL GET ON MY KNEES AND--
GOOD DAY, SIR.
AVENGERS MANSION
"IT WAS A NEW ERA OF INTOLERANCE TOWARDS THE JHERI CURLED.
HEY?
YOU RANG THE DOORBELL OF THE DEFENDERS?
WE'RE HIRING!
PLEASE...
YEAH... NEVERMIND.
"HE HAD NO OPTIONS WORTH CONSIDERING.
"HE KNEW IN ORDER TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, HE'D HAVE TO SHED THE CURLS.
"THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.
C-CAN'T...
GET...
JHERI...
CURLS...
OFF...
YEHEHEHAHA!
BONG
BONG
BONG
"THE LOUD, CHRONIC, BONG OF THE BELL TOWER WAS EXACTLY WHAT DR. DRE ORDERED.
"IT FREED HIM OF THAT SYMBIOTE DEMON AND ALL THE STRESS AND ANXIETY THAT CAME WITH IT."

"HE EMERGED A HERO!"
I'M A NEW MAN! FREE OF THE SHACKLES OF THE EVIL SYMBIOTE CURLS!
I WILL BE THE GREATEST HERO NEW YORK HAS EVER KNOWN!
"TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL, VENOMPOOL SET OUT AND MUTILATED EVERY CRIMINAL HE FOUND.
"LEAVING ONLY MINDLESS VIOLENCE AND RIVERS OF BLOOD IN HIS WAKE.
"BUT THIS WAS THE 1990S, AN ERA OF ENLIGHTENMENT...
DECAPITATION IS CHEAPER THAN REHABILITATION.
-YOURS, VENOMPOOL.
"SUCH METHODOLOGY WAS NOT SMILED UPON.
HEY! THE MUGGER'S ALL GONE, LADY!
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR PURSE?
"IT WASN'T WORKING.
BUT I'M BEING PROACTIVE!
SECRET WARS XI KILLS SEVEN! CHANGES TWO COSTUM
"SAVING LIVES BY SLAUGHTERING SMALL TIME CROOKS WASN'T GETTING HIM ANY ATTENTION.
"THE BIG EVENTS CONTINUED TO GET THE FRONT PAGE..."
HEY PAL. WHY SO GLUM?
I SAVED SIXTEEN PEOPLE TODAY...AND SKINNED THEIR KIDNAPPER ALIVE, BUT NO ONE CARES.
DOING THIS FOR ATTENTION, ARE YOU?
YEAH. MOSTLY.
I'M SORRY?
BIG, SEXY, STRONG MAN LIKE YOU DESERVES TO BE ADORED.
YOU NEED TO THINK BIGGER, NOT BETTER.
LIKE SAVE MORE INNOCENT LIVES? PUT IN EXTRA HOURS AT A SOUP KITCHEN? JOIN GREENPEACE?
HA-HA! NO, HELL NO!
IF ANYTHING, YOU NEED TO DO LESS OF THAT CRAP. C'MON, I'LL CLUE YOU IN.
GREEN-PEACE...

Secret Wars Extreme XIII
SEE, YOU GOTTA BE MORE LIKE THE PEOPLE FIGHTING IN THE SECRET WARS. NOW THOSE FIGHTS MATTER.
IT'S A BUNCH OF HEROES FIGHTING EACH OTHER...
AND SOME UNDERDEVELOPED VILLAINS NO ONE CARES ABOUT, BUT THAT'S NOT THE THING, SEE.
ON PAY/PER VIEW!
SMELLS LIKE EVENT SPIRIT!
FREE POGS!

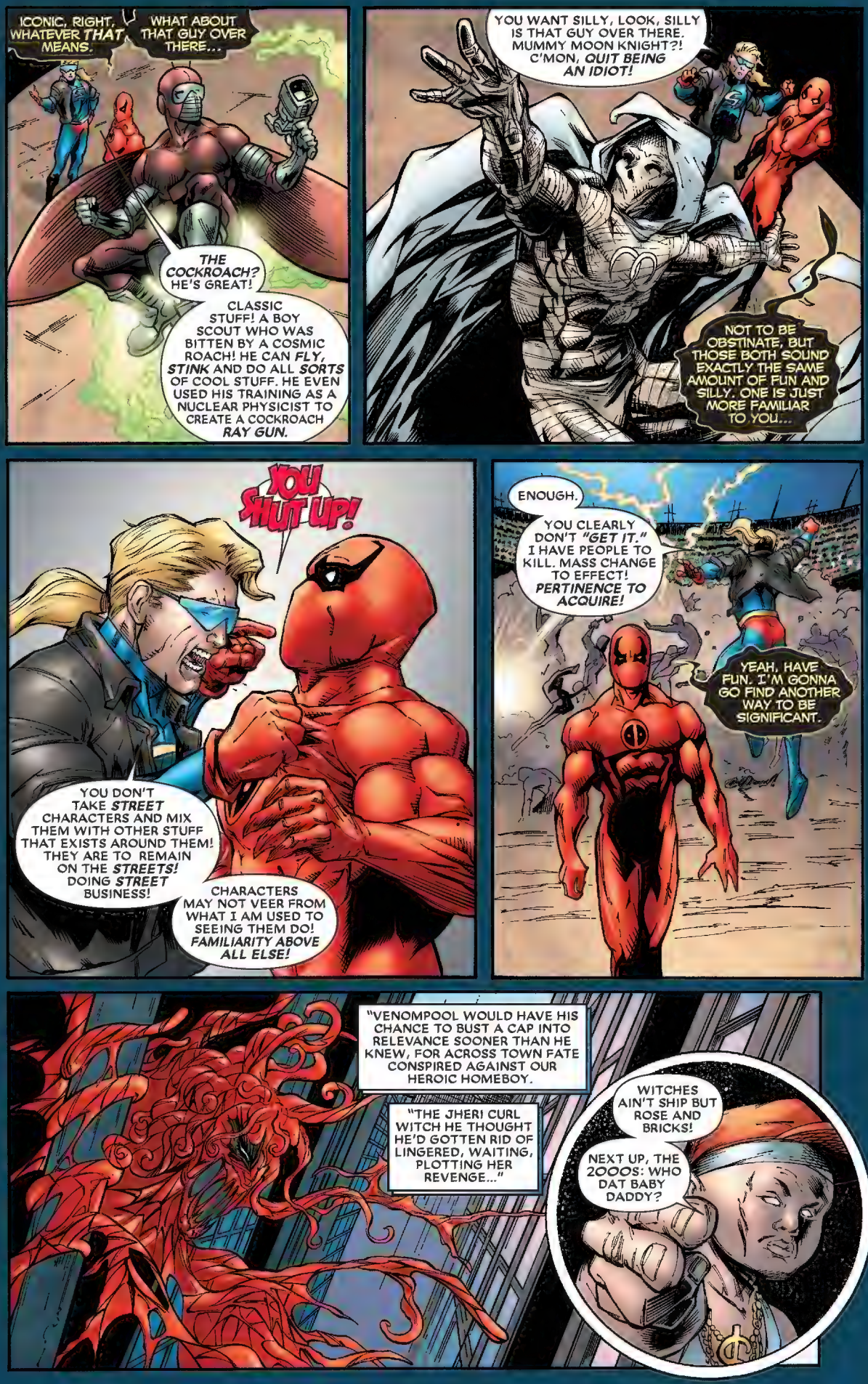
LAST SECRET WARS RESHAPED THREE SUPER HERO TEAMS, KILLED FIVE HEROES AND SEVEN VILLAINS.
SEVEN!

OF COURSE THREE OF THOSE HEROES WERE RESURRECTED THIS MORNING...BUT STILL, YOU GET THE POINT. YOU GOTTA MAKE WAVES, AFFECT CONTINUITY--MATTER!
YOU WANNA SIT AROUND SAVING THE SMALL GUY AND PROTECTING NORMAL, BORING CITIZENS OR DO YOU WANT TO GET INTO THE GAME?!

"IN THE LAND OF THE BLIND, THE ONE-EYED MAN IS KING, SO VENOMPOOL SET OUT TO FIND HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE. TO JOIN THE SECRET WARS--TO EARN HIS STATURE!"
WOW. THAT'S A CRAPLOAD OF COLORFULLY DRESSED PEOPLE BEATING ON EACH OTHER. BUT HOW DO I FIT IN?
WHAT IMPORTANT THING CAN I DO IN THIS EVENT TO ENSURE A HIGHER STATUS? GUESS I COULD MAIM ONE OF THE X-AVENGERS..."

IF THERE IS MAIMING TO DO, I WILL BE THE ONE DOING IT, VILLAIN!
YOU HAVE NO PONYTAIL, LEATHER JACKET, GOATEE OR THERMONUCLEAR EYE GEAR? BAH!
I'M MORE OF AN ANTI-HERO THAN A VILLAIN...
YOU WILL NEVER BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN SUCH A SILLY OUTFIT.

BUT THAT GUY'S DRESSED IN THE AMERICAN FLAG, SLINGING A GIANT DISCUS, HE'S GOT FEATHERS ON HIS HEAD AND WHO ROLLS THEIR BOOTS DOWN LIKE THAT...YET EVERYONE LOVES HIM JUST FINE.
HE IS AN ICONIC HERO!


ICONIC, RIGHT. WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
WHAT ABOUT THAT GUY OVER THERE...
THE COCKROACH? HE'S GREAT!
CLASSIC STUFF! A BOY SCOUT WHO WAS BITTEN BY A COSMIC ROACH! HE CAN FLY, STINK AND DO ALL SORTS OF COOL STUFF. HE EVEN USED HIS TRAINING AS A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST TO CREATE A COCKROACH RAY GUN.
YOU WANT SILLY, LOOK, SILLY IS THAT GUY OVER THERE. MUMMY MOON KNIGHT?! C'MON, QUIT BEING AN IDIOT!
NOT TO BE OBSTINATE, BUT THOSE BOTH SOUND EXACTLY THE SAME AMOUNT OF FUN AND SILLY. ONE IS JUST MORE FAMILIAR TO YOU...
YOU SHUT UP!
YOU DON'T TAKE STREET CHARACTERS AND MIX THEM WITH OTHER STUFF THAT EXISTS AROUND THEM! THEY ARE TO REMAIN ON THE STREETS! DOING STREET BUSINESS!
CHARACTERS MAY NOT VEER FROM WHAT I AM USED TO SEEING THEM DO! FAMILIARITY ABOVE ALL ELSE!
ENOUGH.
YOU CLEARLY DON'T "GET IT." I HAVE PEOPLE TO KILL. MASS CHANGE TO EFFECT! PERTINENCE TO ACQUIRE!
YEAH, HAVE FUN. I'M GONNA GO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO BE SIGNIFICANT.
"VENOMPOOL WOULD HAVE HIS CHANCE TO BUST A CAP INTO RELEVANCE SOONER THAN HE KNEW, FOR ACROSS TOWN FATE CONSPIRED AGAINST OUR HEROIC HOMEBOY.
"THE JHERI CURL WITCH HE THOUGHT HE'D GOTTEN RID OF LINGERED, WAITING, PLOTTING HER REVENGE..."
WITCHES AIN'T SHIP BUT ROSE AND BRICKS!
NEXT UP, THE 2000S: WHO DAT BABY DADDY?

--AAAAAND, WE'RE BACK! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE OFF TUNING INTO THAT 616 GARBAGE, WE HERE IN THE 615.9 HAVE SOME SHOCKING NEW DEVELOPMENTS!
I'M HAIRY SPRANGER, YOUR HOST, THE YEAR IS 2001 AND MUCH HAS TRANSPIRED IN YOUR ABSENCE!
A RECAP, FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST NOW TUNING IN. MEET WADE WILSON, CODENAMED: VENOMPOOL.
HEY.
WADE HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN A LOVELESS AND ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BEYONDER FOR THE PAST--
SIXTEEN YEARS, HAIRY. IT'S BEEN SIXTEEN LONG YEARS.
AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE HURTS YOU FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO HIM. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
HONK
YOUR BOOGERS ARE A TESTAMENT OF THE PAIN HE HAS INFLICTED ON YOU.
AND THIS "LADY" IS--
I AM THE CARNAGE CURL. I AM LIVING DEATH. I AM TWISTED HAIR AND BROKEN HEARTS.
I BET YOU ARE, SWEETIE.
SO AS YOU CAN SEE, WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE IS A CLASSIC THREE-WAY LOVE TRIANGLE.
UM, I DON'T THINK YOU GOT THAT ENTIRELY RIGHT--
BUT, THIS SORDID TALE IS MUCH MORE DISTASTEFUL THAN IT APPEARS.
WE'VE GOT DIRT THAT'S SO BACKWARDS AND GROTESQUE IT'LL LEAVE YOU FEELING LIKE A GENIUS WITH A PERFECT LIFE IN CONTRAST. STICK AROUND!
WHAT IF VENOM POSESSED DEADPOOL?
CHAPTER THREE
REMENDER WORDS
MOLL PENCILS
IRWIN & LIVESAY INKS
SOTOMAYOR COLORS
VC'S COWLES LETTERS
WACKER & MOSTLY BRENNAN EDITS

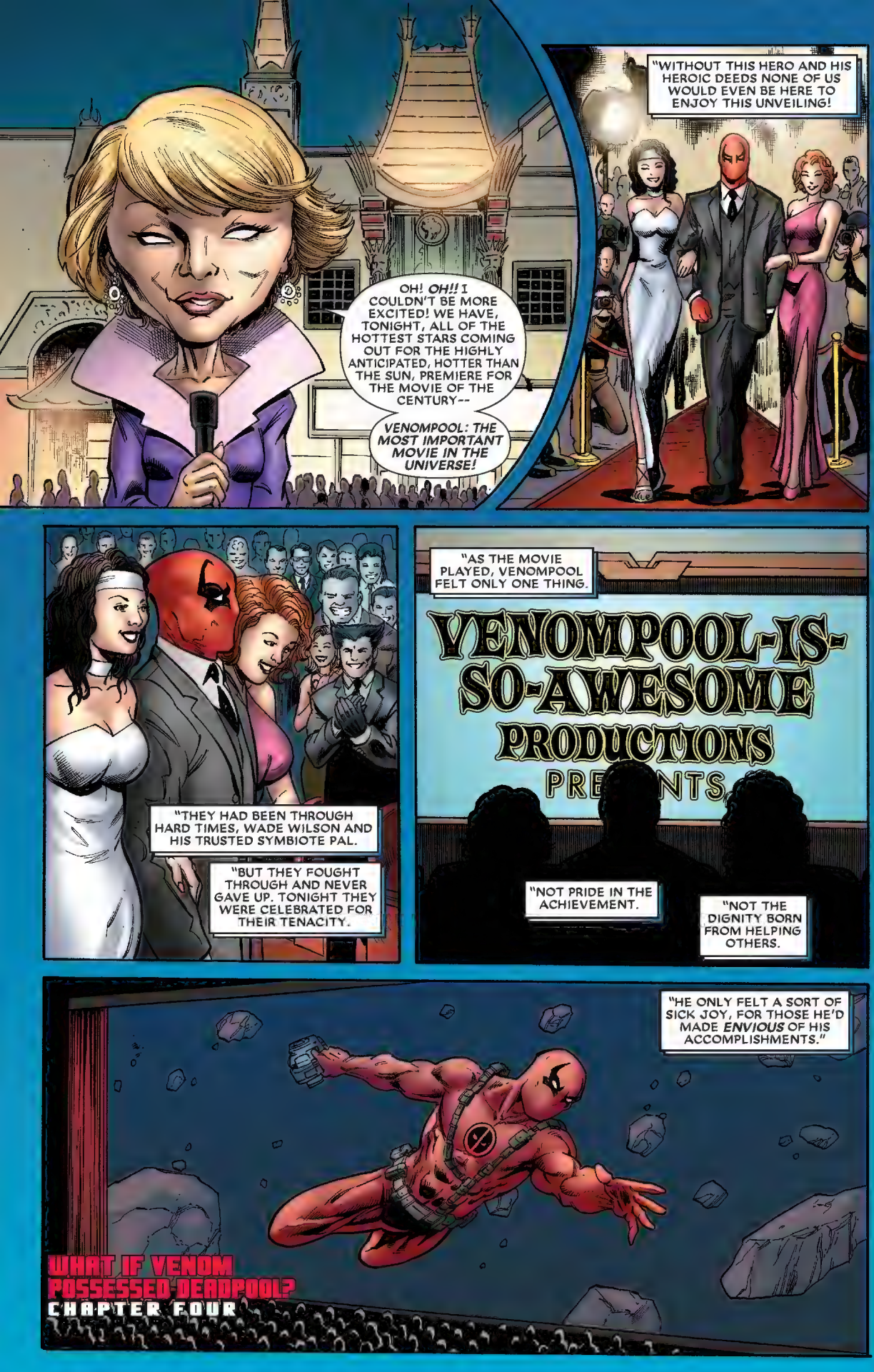
YOU KNOW OUR NEXT GUEST AS THE CREATOR OF SHOWS LIKE SECRET WARS ULTIMATE EXTREME FIGHTING PAY PER VIEW, DISABLED DWARF KNIFE WRESTLING, AND TWO-AND-A HALF MEN.
HE CHANGED THE WORLD INTO A COORS LIGHT TRAIN FOR THE SUPER BOWL LAST YEAR AND HE RULES US ALL WITH HIS OMNIPOTENT MAGICS!
WELCOME TO THE SHOW-- THE BEYONDER!
Boooo!
HEY NOW, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
C'MON, THIS GUY COULD TURN US ALL INTO COORS LIGHT.
BE COOL.
NOW, MR. WADE, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO CATCH US UP TO DATE?
YOU BET, HAIRY.
AFTER THE BEYONDER ABANDONED ME, I DECIDED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD, TO BECOME A REAL SOMEBODY.
"BUT NO MATTER WHAT I DID, THE BEYONDER SOMEHOW UPSTAGED ME.
"SO I WENT OUT AND FOUND WHERE I'D PAWNED THE RETCON EXPUNGIFIER.
"AND I BOUGHT THAT BEAUTIFUL GUN BACK.
"I KNEW TO ERASE THE BEYONDER WITH THE RETCON EXPUNGIFIER, I'D FIRST NEED HIM OFF BALANCE. DISORIENTED.
"I CALLED AND TOLD HIM I WAS THROWING A GALA EVENT CELEBRATING HIS LIFE...IN MY APARTMENT.
"HE AGREED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE."
WANNA COME TO THE SUPER-SWEET PARTY AT MY HOUSE?

"WHAT HE WOULD FIND INSTEAD WAS AN AMWAY AMBUSH.
"AN AMWAY PARTY WITH ONLY ONE GUEST TO BADGER--HIM.
"IT WAS THE PERFECT SCHEME TO GET HIM FLUSTERED, AND, WELL... I ACTUALLY WAS LOOKING FOR HELP SELLING QUALITY AMWAY PRODUCTS.
"BUT HE KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP.
"HE BROUGHT CARNAGE CURL TO MY HOUSE! MY GREATEST ARCHENEMY!
"HIS FLUSTER BOMB COUNTERED MY OWN."
WORD TO YOUR MOM.
YOU'RE OUTCLASSED, WADE. YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE PUT ME THROUGH? DO YOU?!
"CARNAGE CURL KILLED MY GREAT SECRET UNCLE, BUFFALO HOPSCOTCH!
"SHE BLEW UP THE LABORATORY WHERE I WORKED FOR YEARS TO CREATE DIARRHEA RETARDANT OLESTRA!
"SHE LEFT AN UPPER-DECKER AT MY COUNTRY TIME BIRTHDAY HOEDOWN.
"EVERYONE THOUGHT I LEFT A STINKER!"
YUP-YUP. I BURNED YOU, BOY. YOU GOT ALL UP IN MY FACE, THOUGHT YOU COULD GET RID O' ME, BUT YOU CAN'T GET RID O' CARNAGE CURL.
I'M LIKE A DISEASE.
LITERALLY.
I GET THAT HAVING AN ENEMY TO FOCUS ON ADDS SOME KIND OF PERVERSE SENSE OF MEANING TO YOUR HOLLOW LIFE.
SASSY

STUPID PEOPLE NEED TO CREATE UNNECESSARY DRAMA AS IT OFFERS THE ILLUSION THAT BIG WEIGHTY THINGS ARE HAPPENING--BUT THEY AREN'T.
YOU'RE JUST A DELUDED LOSER WITH AN OBSESSION!
TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE
NO ONE SPEAKS TO MY BOO THAT WAY!
SHRED
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M WITH THE BEYONDER NOW. YOU GOTTA RESPECT ME DIFFERENT.
RESPECT YOU? WHY?
SASSY
I'M PREGNANT.
OOOOOOHH!
YOUR REACTION, SIR?
MY WORDS DONE GO TO THIS LADY WHAT DID JUST ANNOUNCE HERSELF TO HAVE AN IMPURE DEMON BABY A STEWIN' IN HER GULLET.
GOD AIN'T ALL ABOUT NO COSMIC DEITY AN' ALIEN TRAILER TRASH HAVIN' NO PROCREATIN'. GOD WILL PUNISH YOU.
ALSO, WANTED TA SEE, MAYBE YOU AN' ME COULD GO TO THE CHUCKY CHEESE FER PIZZA AN' SKEET BALL LATER?

SASSY
YOU WILL HAVE ALL THE PIZZA AND SKEET BALL YOU DESIRE--
IN HELL!
SHRUKK
ANYONE ELSE HAVE A COMMENT?
SASSY
P-REGNANT...WITH HIS BABY... I GUESS I ALWAYS THOUGHT WE'D GET BACK TOGETHER...
C'MON, STANKY YOU AIN'T EVEN KNOW THE WHOLE STORY YET...
WAIT! SAVE THE REVEAL TILL AFTER THE BREAK!
STICK AROUND, FOLKS, AFTER THESE WORDS FROM OUR SPONSOR WE REVEAL THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE FATHER!
I WAIT FOR NO SPONSOR BREAK!
THWUDD

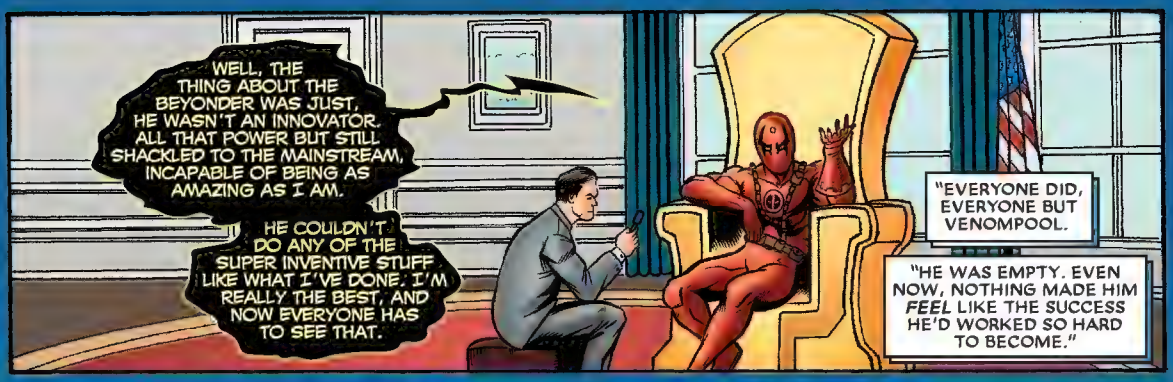
BEHOLD-- GALACTUS IS THE BABY DADDY!
MY REVENGE IS FINALLY COMPLETE, BEYONDER!
NO...IT CAN'T BE... NOT HIM...
HOME-WRECKING MONSTER!
LET US SOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES WITH FISTS!
"AND THEY DID.
"BUT THEY POSSESSED POWER TOO HOT FOR EXISTENCE!
"...AND THEY DESTROYED THE EARTH."
AFTER THE BREAK: "MY TRANSSEXUAL BRIDEZILLA'S MOVED HER LOVER INTO OUR CAMPER VAN--IN SPACE!"

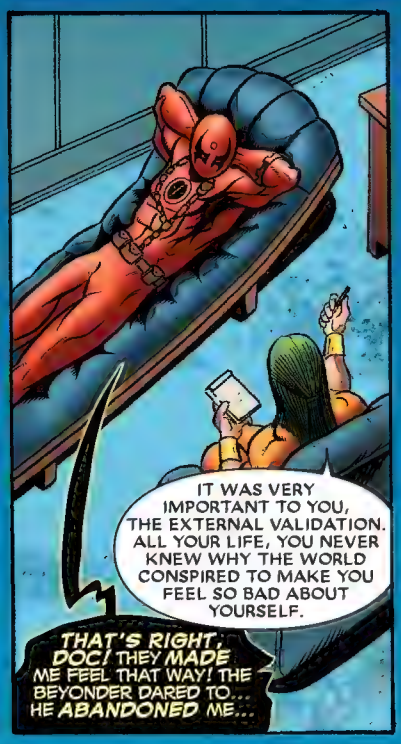

OH! OH!! I COULDN'T BE MORE EXCITED! WE HAVE, TONIGHT, ALL OF THE HOTTEST STARS COMING OUT FOR THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED, HOTTER THAN THE SUN, PREMIERE FOR THE MOVIE OF THE CENTURY--
VENOMPOOL: THE MOST IMPORTANT MOVIE IN THE UNIVERSE!
"WITHOUT THIS HERO AND HIS HEROIC DEEDS NONE OF US WOULD EVEN BE HERE TO ENJOY THIS UNVEILING!
"THEY HAD BEEN THROUGH HARD TIMES, WADE WILSON AND HIS TRUSTED SYMBIOTE PAL.
"BUT THEY FOUGHT THROUGH AND NEVER GAVE UP. TONIGHT THEY WERE CELEBRATED FOR THEIR TENACITY.
"AS THE MOVIE PLAYED, VENOMPOOL FELT ONLY ONE THING.
VENOMPOOL-IS-SO-AWESOME
PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
"NOT PRIDE IN THE ACHIEVEMENT.
"NOT THE DIGNITY BORN FROM HELPING OTHERS.
"HE ONLY FELT A SORT OF SICK JOY, FOR THOSE HE'D MADE ENVIOUS OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS."
WHAT IF VENOM POSSESSED DEADPOOL?
CHAPTER FOUR

FOOL! YOU HAVE DESTROYED GALACTUS'S BRUNCH PLANET!
FEAR NOT, MONSTER! FOR NOW YOU WILL HAVE YOUR FILL--YOU WILL DINE ON SUFFERING AND DEFEAT!
ENOUGH! ENOUGH OF YOUR POWER TRIPPING! YOU'RE BOTH TOO POWERFUL TO EXIST AND LEAVE ME ONLY ONE COURSE OF ACTION--
I HEREBY EXPUNGE YOU FROM ALL CONTINUITY!
"AND HE REALLY DID IT. JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIE.
"ERASED THE BEYONDER, AND GALACTUS. SAVED THE EARTH. SAVED US ALL.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU. YOU'RE TOO KIND, REALLY.
"EVERYTHING HE'D EVER WANTED.
"ADORATION.
"ATTENTION FOR HIS DEEDS.
"HE'D ACHIEVED ABSOLUTE PERTINENCE."
NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THE NUMBER ONE MOVIE IN THE WORLD--THE WORLD YOU SAVED--HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I DUNNO. OKAY, I GUESS.
"THOUGH HE HAD BECOME VERY RELEVANT, AND VERY IMPORTANT, SOMETHING WAS STILL MISSING.
THOR!
OVER HERE, THOR!
CAN I GET AN EXCLUSIVE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HELA?!
"VENOMPOOL KNEW, FINALLY, WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS..."

"OTHER PEOPLE WERE STILL GETTING ATTENTION AS WELL.
"HE WENT TO CONTEMPLATE FOR DAYS.
"THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET ALL THAT HE DESERVED.
"TO WIPE OUT ANYONE CAPABLE OF SIMILAR HEROIC DEEDS."
SOON...
YOINK!
HEY!
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE HIGHLANDER!
WHAT? YOU HAVE ME MISTAKEN--

"OVER THE NEXT YEAR, VENOMPOOL KILLED THEM ALL, EVERY HERO, EVERY VILLAIN...LEAVING ONLY THE VERY ATTRACTIVE ALIVE, FOR ADORATION PURPOSES.
"HE BECAME THE WORLD'S ONLY, AND THUS MOST IMPORTANT, SUPER HERO.
"AND, OH, HOW HE MATTERED. HE STARRED IN EVERY MOVIE, TELEVISION PROGRAM, BOOK AND MAGAZINE.
"HIS ADVENTURES WERE *BIGGER* AND MORE *IMPORTANT* THAN *ANYONE'S* HAD *EVER* BEEN.
DEADPOOL
"EVERYTHING HE DID HAD A RIPPLE EFFECT ON THE WORLD. HE REALLY, REALLY MATTERED.
"UNFORTUNATELY, HE DIDN'T HANDLE THE SUCCESS WITH GRACE...
SUCK IT, WORLD! I'M THE BEST! NOW YOU SEE!
"INSTEAD, IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DECRY ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSED HIM ALONG THE WAY TO BECOMING KING OF THE WORLD.
"HE WOULD SPEND HIS VICTORY LAP CONSUMED BY THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF HIM, GIVEN OVER TO EGO, MIRED IN PETTY RIVALRY.
THE BEYONDER? A REAL TOOL...LET ME GIVE YOU THE 411 ON HIM...
YOU ERASED HIM AND HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE, DISPARAGING HIM NOW, WHEN YOU HAVE SO MUCH...IT SEEMS, WELL, TACKY.
"CRUSHED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF LONG PAST REJECTION AND A DESPERATE INSECURITY THAT NO SUCCESS COULD QUELL, HIS EGO GREW TO COMPENSATE.
"WITH NO CONSEQUENCES FOR HIS ACTIONS, HIS TRUE FABRIC COULD NOW BE EXPOSED."
TURN OFF THE CAMERA.


WELL, THE THING ABOUT THE BEYONDER WAS JUST, HE WASN'T AN INNOVATOR. ALL THAT POWER BUT STILL SHACKLED TO THE MAINSTREAM, INCAPABLE OF BEING AS AMAZING AS I AM.
HE COULDN'T DO ANY OF THE SUPER INVENTIVE STUFF LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE. I'M REALLY THE BEST, AND NOW EVERYONE HAS TO SEE THAT.
"EVERYONE DID, EVERYONE BUT VENOMPOOL.
"HE WAS EMPTY. EVEN NOW, NOTHING MADE HIM *FEEL* LIKE THE SUCCESS HE'D WORKED SO HARD TO BECOME."

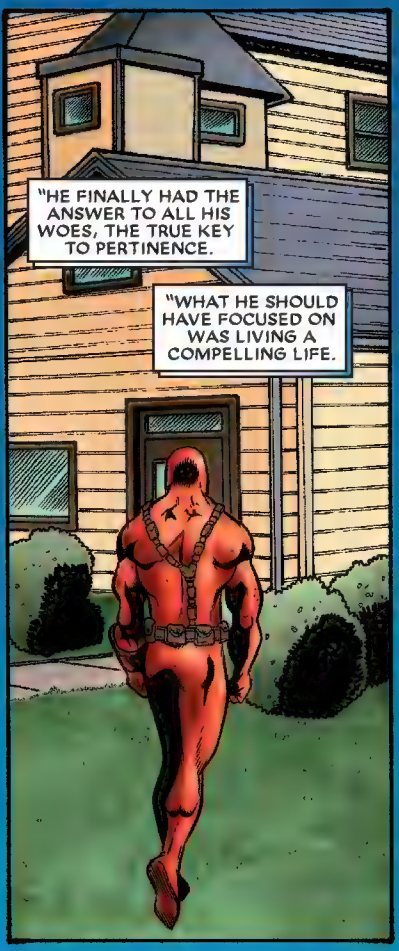

IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU, THE EXTERNAL VALIDATION. ALL YOUR LIFE, YOU NEVER KNEW WHY THE WORLD CONSPIRED TO MAKE YOU FEEL SO BAD ABOUT YOURSELF.
THAT'S RIGHT, DOC! THEY *MADE* ME FEEL THAT WAY! THE BEYONDER DARED TO... HE *ABANDONED* ME...

NORMALLY WHAT WE FIND IN THESE SITUATIONS IS THAT THE PERSON WITH THE *VICTIM COMPLEX* WAS CAST OUT BECAUSE OF HIS *OWN* BEHAVIOR.
MOST OFTEN, WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T LIKE WHO THEY ARE, THEY MASK THE FACT WITH A WALL OF ARROGANCE AND EGO.

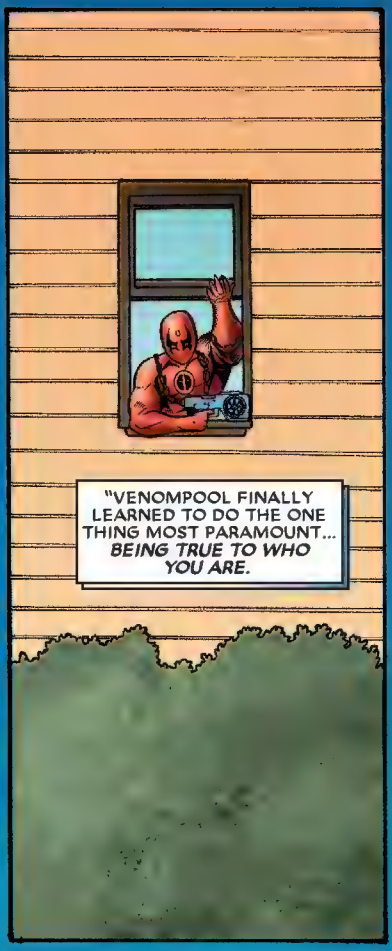
IT'S A *DEFENSE* FROM THE WORLD, WHICH USUALLY TURNS INTO A *WEAPON* AGAINST THE WORLD AS WELL.
IT'S QUITE COMMON FOR SOMEONE WHO FEELS PERSECUTED TO BE BLIND TO THE REALITY THAT... WELL...
HE'S JUST A JERK WHO NO ONE WANTS TO BE AROUND.

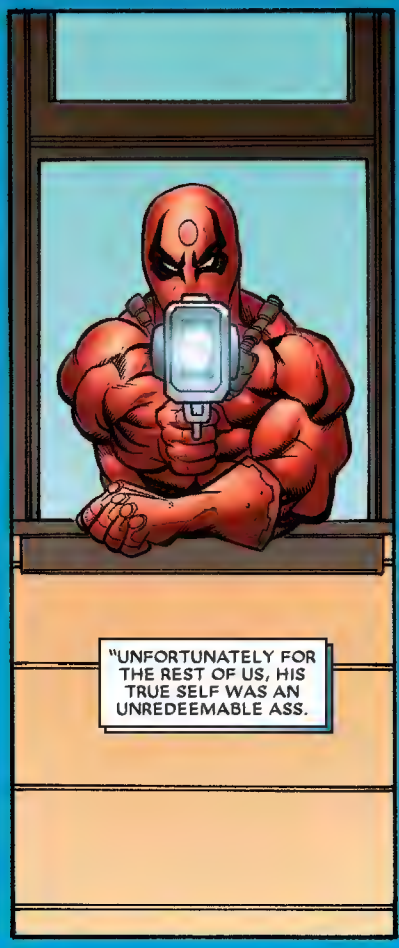
"SOMETHING DOC SAMPSON SAID, BEFORE VENOMPOOL REMOVED HIS HEAD, HAD HIT HOME.

"HE HAD FOCUSED ON ALL THE WRONG THINGS.
"HIS STORY WAS ABOUT UPWARD ASCENSION, CONQUEST AND ACCEPTANCE."

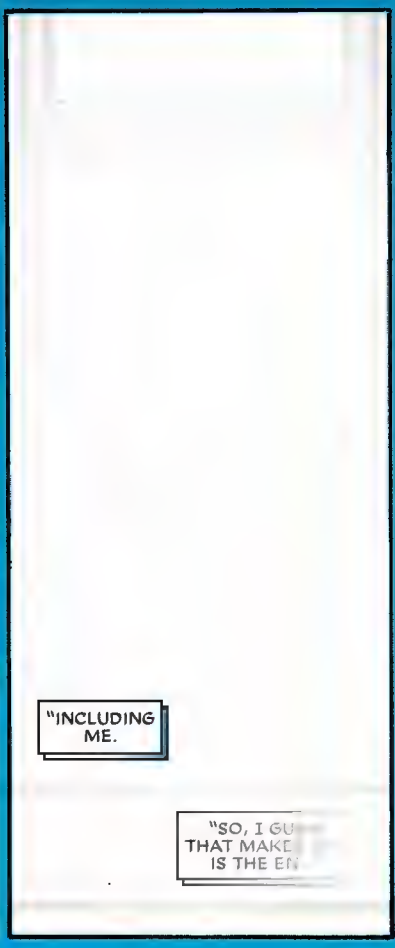

"HE FINALLY HAD THE ANSWER TO ALL HIS WOES, THE TRUE KEY TO PERTINENCE.
"WHAT HE SHOULD HAVE FOCUSED ON WAS LIVING A COMPELLING LIFE.

"TO GROW AND EVOLVE AS A HUMAN, LEARNING FROM HIS MISTAKES, BECOMING A BETTER PERSON FOR ITS OWN SAKE, EVEN WHEN NO ONE WAS WATCHING.
"PERHAPS ADOPTING A MORAL, PHILOSOPHICAL POINT OF VIEW.
THE RETCON EXPUNGIFIER...

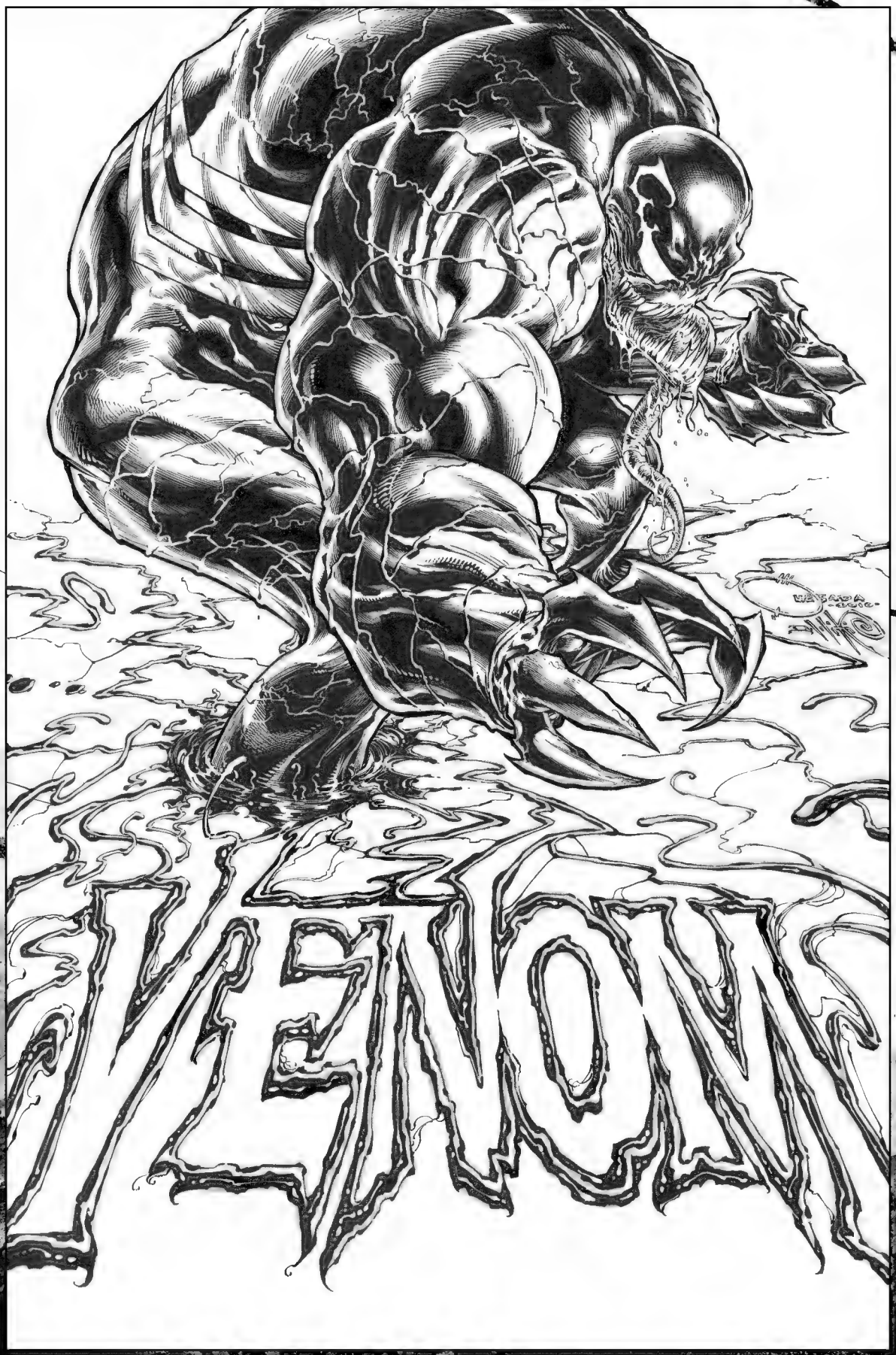

"VENOMPOOL FINALLY LEARNED TO DO THE ONE THING MOST PARAMOUNT... *BEING TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE.*


"UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE REST OF US, HIS TRUE SELF WAS AN UNREDEEMABLE ASS.

"INSTEAD OF DOING ALL THAT OTHER CRAP, WHAT WITH THE LEARNING AND THINKING...
"HE JUST ERASED THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.


"INCLUDING ME.
"SO, I GU
THAT MAKE
IS THE EN

***Venom 1* Variant** by Paulo Siqueira & Morry Hollowell



***Venom 1* Sketch Variant** by Joe Quesada & Danny Miki

***Venom* 9 50th Anniversary Variant** by Michael Lark & Richard Isanove

Venom 12 Variant by Michael Del Mundo

Amazing Spider-Man 678 **Venom Variant** by Joe Quinones

***Avengers 21* Venom Variant** by Carlo Barberi, Juan Vlasco & Marte Gracia

Captain America 7 **Venom Variant** by Mike Perkins & John Rauch

***Defenders 2* Venom Variant** by Chris Stevens & Jose Villarrubia

Fantastic Four 602 **Venom Variant** by Kalman Andrasofszky

***FF 14* Venom Variant** by Michael Ryan & Chris Sotomayor

Incredible Hulk 4 **Venom Variant** by Michael Del Mundo

Invincible Iron Man 512 **Venom Variant**
by Larry Stroman, Dave Meikis & Guru-eFX

***Journey Into Mystery 633* Venom Variant** by Stephanie Hans

Mighty Thor 10 **Venom Variant** by Gerald Parel

New Avengers 2 **Venom Variant** by Giuseppe Camuncoli & Edgar Delgado

***Scarlet Spider 1* Venom Variant** by Mike Perkins & John Rauch

Secret Avengers 21 **Venom Variant** by Khoi Pham & Edgar Delgado

Uncanny X-Force 20 **Venom Variant** by Paul Renaud

***Uncanny X-Men 5* Venom Variant** by Greg Horn

***Wolverine & the X-Men* 4 Venom Variant** by Mark Brooks

***X-Men 23* Venom Variant** by John Tyler Christopher

***X-Men Legacy 261* Venom Variant** by Mirco Pierfederici & Frank D'Armata

A NEW KIND OF VENOM

Writer Rick Remender Injects A Little Venom Into Flash Thompson and Spider-Island

By Chris Arrant

Cover to *Venom* #2 by Tony Moore.

ALL-AMERICAN HERO: The Venom symbiote gives Flash Thompson another chance to serve his country, but at what price? (Art from *Venom* #1 by Moore.)

He's been tearing up Spider-Man's world since his introduction in comics more 25 years ago, and he stole the show when he appeared in the last *Spider-Man* movie – but the sinister symbiote has a new mission in the recently launched *Venom* series: to be a hero. Gone are his partnerships with anti-heroes or downright bad guys like Eddie Brock and Mac Gargan. Now, the monstrous Venom has a new host in military veteran and *Amazing Spider-Man* mainstay Flash Thompson. After he lost his legs while on a tour of duty in Iraq, Flash's military career was seemingly over – until he got a second chance as a black-ops soldier armed with one of the most deadly weapons ever: Venom.

At the helm of the new series are writer Rick Remender, fresh off his best-selling launch of *Uncanny X-Force*, and artist Tony Moore, who previously collaborated with Remender on *Frankencastle*. As *Venom*'s first story arc wraps up, and Flash sets his sights on "Spider-Island," we talked with Remender about this explosive book and the big shoes he has to fill.

SPOTLIGHT: What was the development process like to dream up this idea of ex-soldier, ex-football player Flash Thompson as the new host for Venom?

RICK: Well, the initial idea came from *Amazing Spider-Man* writer Dan Slott and editor Stephen Wacker. When Stephen approached me about doing the series, I had some trepidation. Venom is a fun character, but I didn't see the immediate connection to Flash Thompson. Here's a guy who lost his legs in service to his country and has temperament issues that the symbiote feeds off of. He also has addiction issues with alcohol. I realized Flash was a perfect fit once I thought about it for a bit; all the things that make Flash an iconic character fit with the Venom symbiote and add a dramatic flair to the story. Once I dug into it, the writing process was a lot of fun. I think the merging of the two is pretty much perfect.

SPOTLIGHT: This reinvention of the symbiote has been the biggest evolution since it went from simply being Peter Parker's costume to taking the name Venom.

RICK: Well, I like being able to do a fresh take on something rather than having to be slavish and maintain the status quo. This project allows for a lot of freedom and imagination. You still play by the rules of the symbiote, but you get to put it onto a brand-new host with all its new personality flaws. Flash is a person who shouldn't be wearing the suit. In terms of being prone to losing his temper, the general who's in charge was blinded to this conflict. The general has a single-minded goal to get his soldier back after he lost his legs, while not looking at the aspects of Flash's personality that make him a dangerous mix with Venom. It's fun to take two existing characters and mix them together like chocolate and peanut butter. (This is something I like doing in general.)

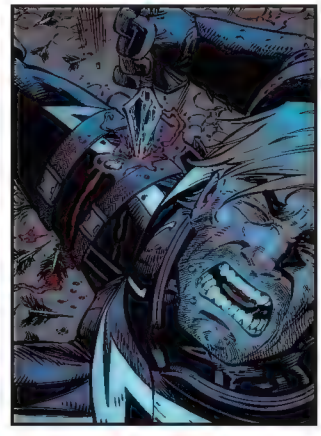
SPOTLIGHT: The Venom character has brought out the best in artists, going from his debut with Todd McFarlane to later runs with the likes of Humberto Ramos and Chris Bachalo. You're partnering with artist Tony Moore, who you previously worked with on *Frankencastle*. He seems perfect for this job.

RICK: Stephen, our editor, had just read *Frankencastle* and was very complimentary of what Tony and I had done. We had been pitching another project to Marvel, so he knew we were looking to work together again.

TRICK OR TREAT? Artist Tony Moore's rendition of the wicked trickster Jack O'Lantern in *Venom #1* is quite a treat.

SPOTLIGHT: In *Venom #4*, you had Venom square off against his eternal nemesis, Spider-Man. What's it like knowing Spidey's longtime friend Flash, who has his own issues with Peter, is under the mask?

RICK: It all comes down to context and knowing what the fight is about. In the case of *Venom #4*, Venom is on the road to protect Betty Brant, but Spidey sees him and thinks he's responsible for what happened to Betty. Flash had been wearing the symbiote a day or two longer than he should, and Venom's grip on him is really starting to take over. When the symbiote sees Spider-Man, he wants to fight Spidey like some sort of jilted lover since he's his former host. Flash is inside the suit trying to tell the symbiote to save Betty Brant from Jackyl, but with little luck. The fight boils down to the big visuals and the dual motives going on here. The complications along the way make this fight more than just another Spidey vs. Venom battle.



FLASH'S FATE: Can Flash's humanity survive his struggle with the symbiote? (Art from *Venom #2* by Moore and *Venom #3* by Tom Fowler.)

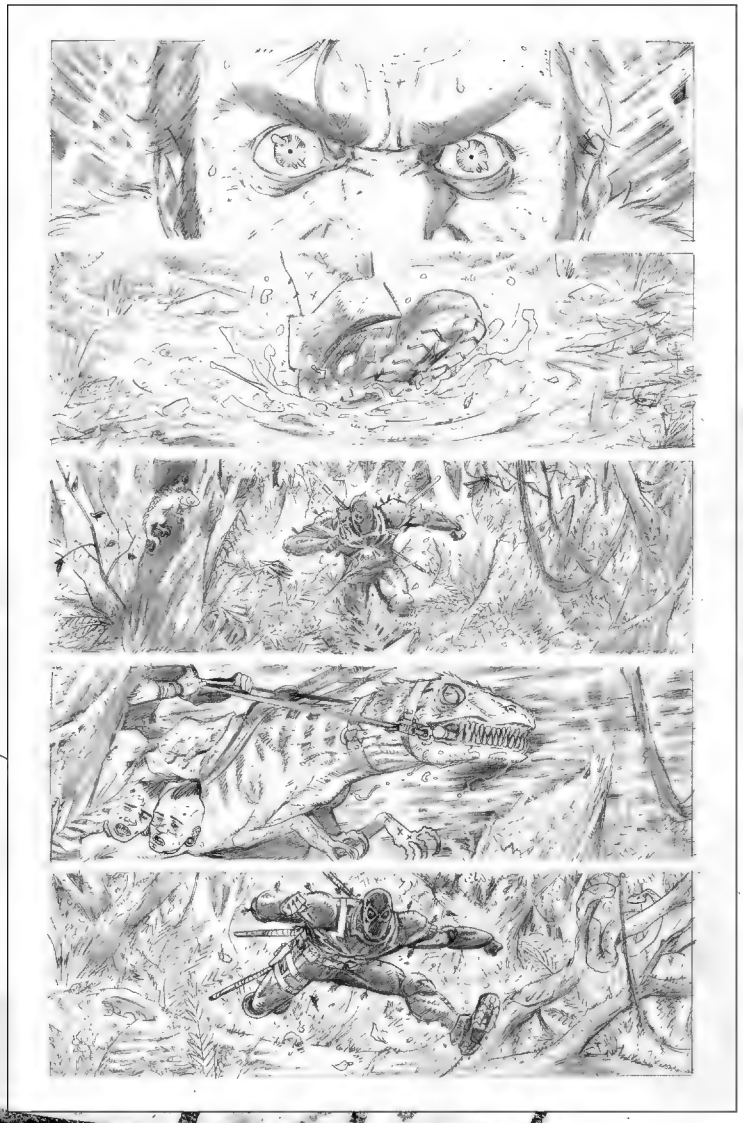
SPOTLIGHT: And it looks like Flash-as-Venom is staying around Spider-Man's stomping grounds, as the upcoming fifth issue of *Venom* promises to see him wading into the "Spider-Island" event. How does he factor into that?

RICK: As a government agent, Flash is called on after Manhattan is overtaken and the people begin to be transformed into Spider-Men and paranoia ensues. The government drops in Venom for a number of missions on the island related to solving the problems. At the same time, Flash's father is very sick and in the hospital; he isn't sure if his dad's going to make it through the day. Flash needs to drop into the city, accomplish his missions while Betty is waiting at the hospital next to his dad in critical condition. The Spidey books all have to maintain a "cost of responsibility" angle with a personal motive, and Flash's struggle in this issue really brings that to life.

SPOTLIGHT: With all that's going on in *Venom*, what's been the most challenging part of the book for you?

RICK: I think the challenge for a book like this is that it has to have fast-paced action. That's the mandate, I think. For me, I want readers to feel like they were dropped onto a rollercoaster ride. The challenge is to do that and tell a fast-paced, exciting story while giving it dramatic punch and character. No problem is ever solved without some seeding into future events, and nothing happens by chance or luck. I think that, for me, I learned on the *Fear Agent* series how to tell a fast-paced story and use internal captions to build drama in the context of the struggle. So it's not just action, but there's something else going underneath the surface.

Venom *is one of 2011's breakout titles, so head to your local comic shop and jump on board!* •



#2 PAGE 1
PENCILS AND INKS
by Tony Moore & Crimelab Studios

#2 PAGE 2
PENCILS AND INKS
by Tony Moore & Crimelab Studios

#2 PAGE 3
PENCILS AND INKS
by Tony Moore & Crimelab Studios

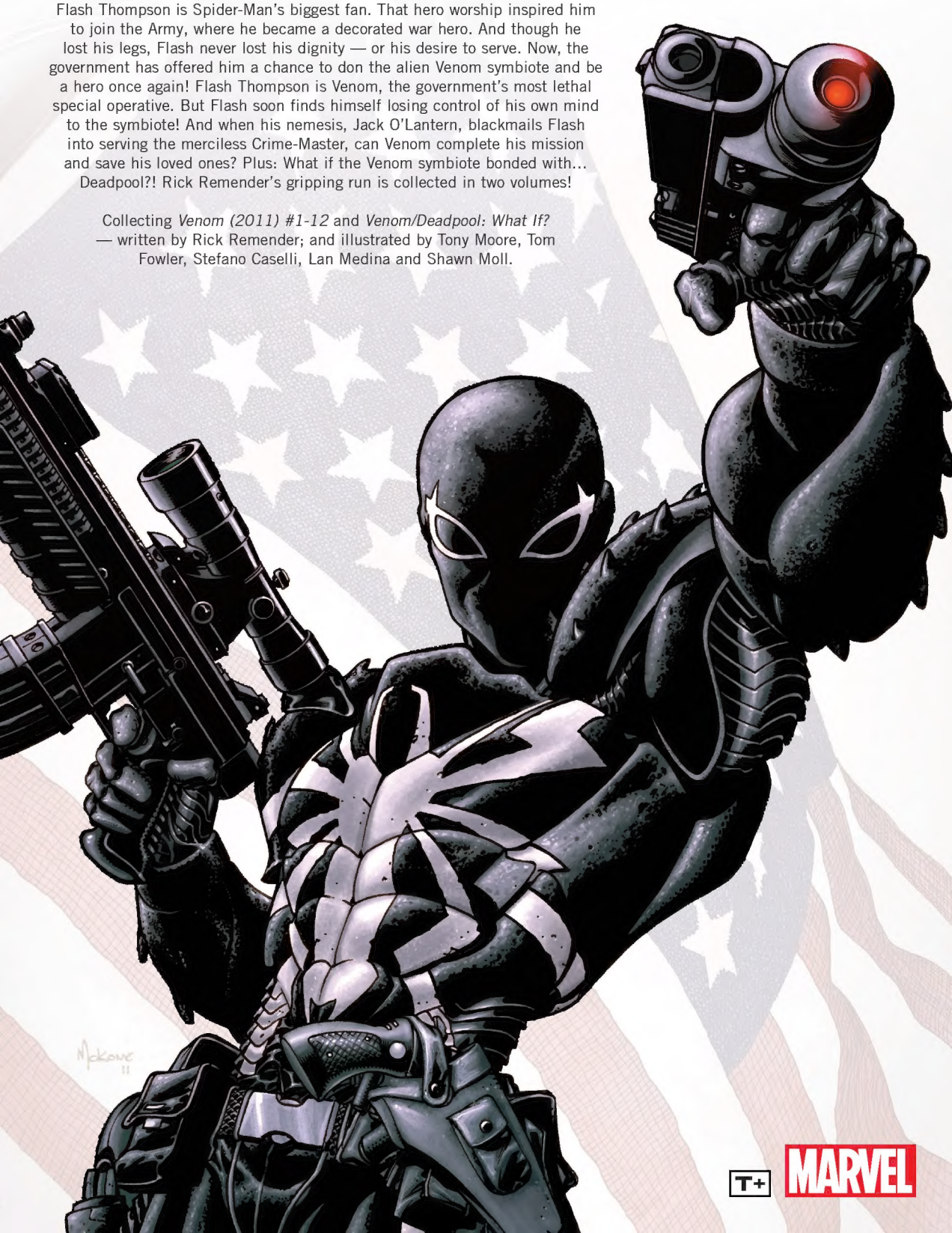
#2 PAGE 4
PENCILS AND INKS
by Tony Moore & Crimelab Studios

"It's a new direction, and one that works so well because it is so different from the past, or anything else out there right now." — *ComicBookResources.com*

A NEW VENOM FOR A NEW ERA!

Flash Thompson is Spider-Man's biggest fan. That hero worship inspired him to join the Army, where he became a decorated war hero. And though he lost his legs, Flash never lost his dignity — or his desire to serve. Now, the government has offered him a chance to don the alien Venom symbiote and be a hero once again! Flash Thompson is Venom, the government's most lethal special operative. But Flash soon finds himself losing control of his own mind to the symbiote! And when his nemesis, Jack O'Lantern, blackmails Flash into serving the merciless Crime-Master, can Venom complete his mission and save his loved ones? Plus: What if the Venom symbiote bonded with... Deadpool?! Rick Remender's gripping run is collected in two volumes!

Collecting *Venom (2011) #1-12* and *Venom/Deadpool: What If?* — written by Rick Remender; and illustrated by Tony Moore, Tom Fowler, Stefano Caselli, Lan Medina and Shawn Moll.



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